

THE
HISTORY
Robt. OF Annand
LUCY WELLERS.

Written by a LADY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

A NEW EDITION.



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HISTORY



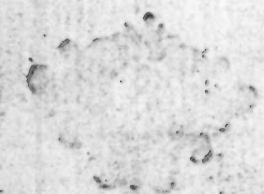
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THE
HISTORY
OF
LUCY WELLERS.

BOOK I.

CHAP. I.

A sketch of several portraits in black and white.

ONE morning, in the month of January, an equipage stopt at the house of Mr. Searls, a banker in Lombard-street; out of which stepped a person, of a benign aspect, and genteel address, whom Mr. Searls soon perceived to be

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B

Mrs.

Mrs. Goodall, a widow lady, who frequently deposited sums in his hands.

Having welcomed her to town, and made some cordial enquiries after "good Mr. Stedman, her steward," the banker informed her, he had received her last, bearing date the sixth instant, and would have returned an answer, had she not intimated that he should have the pleasure of seeing her soon. He then desired to know her commands; which she, in a more concise manner, answered, "were all summed up in that letter." After he had assured her they should be punctually performed, he desired her to walk into his wife's apartment, who was then at breakfast. Which offer she accepted, and was by him conducted into Mrs. Searls's dressing-room.

Mrs. Searls, though in the most splendid dishabille, affected a surprize, at the entrance of a stranger, observing, 'it was like her husband's breeding, to bring company in without acquainting her with

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‘ with his intentions ; notwithstanding he
‘ knew she was so fatigued at lady Ram-
‘ ble’s rout the night before, that she could
‘ not put herself in a figure to be seen.”
And concluded, with saying, “ she was
‘ quite ashamed to be caught in such a
‘ frightful pickle !”

Though Mrs. Goodall was conscious she was much less indebted to dress than this lady, yet being a woman of more sense than to affect such a trifling pre-eminence, she gave herself no trouble in returning the apology in kind, but fell into the common chat of the town ; in which Mrs. Searls’s two daughters bore a considerable share. But, as such conversation, though extremely entertaining at a tea table, would make but an indifferent figure upon paper, I chuse to drop it, and proceed to the pictures of the family ; at the head of which, I must place the mistress, since her husband had long been obliged to relinquish his prerogative.

She was large, fair, and though turned of forty, retained a sufficient stock of beau-

ty, to prove that in her younger days, she merited the epithet of *handsome*; but as her shape was never of the easy kind, her present corpulency added to her natural clumsiness; and her awkward imitation of that disengaged manner which she observed in her genteel acquaintance, only served to render it more conspicuous.

Her eldest daughter was the most complete piece of affectation that ever was beheld: She was about two and twenty: extremely thin, of a fallow complexion, with two little grey eyes, set very deep; and a fore-head and nose of an uncommon prominency. She was not over talkative, the only mark of wisdom she shewed, yet was esteemed an oracle in the family; and the few sentences which issued from her lips, were regarded with the same reverence as if they had proceeded from the mouth of a Sibyll. Whenever she thought proper to speak, it was to express her astonishment at the forwardness of the young women of her acquaintance, who could vouchsafe to sit on the next chair, or give the

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the least attention to any conversation from fellows.

Miss Patty, the youngest daughter, at the age of eighteen, had attained to all that insipid pertness, which in vulgar minds passes for vivacity and wit. She would have resembled her mother, had not the small-pox scarred her face, and enlarged her features. Her shape had suffered no less by screwing, to contract it into the size of her sister's, and that bulk, which would have had no disagreeable effect, if she had but allowed it room to diffuse itself, had a quite contrary one, as by this expedient it all centered in her left shoulder.

The fourth figure in this group, was a young woman, of the same age with Miss Patty; her face, and shape, were quite faultless, and there was so much innocence and sensibility in her countenance, as seemed to promise her mind equally possessed of them. But in this amiable young person, a visible dejection might have been discerned, by less penetrating

eyes than those of Mrs. Goodall. And though she was habited in nothing more attractive than a clean washing night-gown, she could not escape the notice of the visitant; who, observing she was placed at a distant window, intent on a piece of needle-work, expressed some concern at her being situated so far from the rest of the company. Mrs. Searls answered, 'She cannot see in any other place, and it would be doing the girl an injury to take her from an employment by which she must get her bread.'

Mrs. Goodall stole a look at the young woman, and perceiving a blush arise in her face, which she was sorry to have occasioned, without taking any notice of the insinuation in Mrs. Searls's speech, immediately turned the discourse on that useful part of female education; bestowing many encomiums on young ladies that made so proper a use of their time; adding, it was her opinion, 'that no condition, however exalted, could exempt a woman from performing the duties in her province,

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‘vince, as such.’ And observed, it was recorded in history, that the habit Alexander wore, when he vanquished Darius, was manufactured by the princesses, his sisters*.

‘Oh Madam! ‘replied Mrs. Searls, (with a contemptuous sneer,) ‘you are a scholar, I perceive; I wonder you did not mention those *primitive Christians* Rachel, and Rebecca; I have heard they condescended to draw water, and dressed their husband’s dinners. But what signifies what was done seven or eight hundred years ago, when there was no people of fashion breathing?’

Here Mrs. Goodall was obliged to use her utmost efforts to suppress a risible inclination. Mrs. Searls not observing her, went on. ‘I think as you do, Madam, that all such low employments, are very necessary for girls, who have no fortunes, to be instructed in; but it would be ridiculous for us, people of condition, to

* See Rollin’s antient hist.

‘ pore out our eyes, and spoil our shapes,
‘ by sitting dodging at our needle ; not to
‘ mention how much the doctors say, such
‘ a life weakens the habit. There is Miss
‘ Searls, if I had educated her in such
‘ mean notions, would have been a perfect
‘ *Otomy* ; and Miss Patty very likely had
‘ been as crooked as a ram’s-horn.’

At this Mrs. Goodall must have inevitably burst into a laugh, had not the banker opportunely entered the room, and turned the conversation, by informing that lady, that he had adjusted the affair she came upon. She rose, and was about to quit the room, when Mr. Searls insisted on her staying to eat a bit of mutton. And though, it was highly probable, this motion was not perfectly agreeable to his lady, good manners obliged her to second it, and Mrs. Goodall was prevailed on to stay. However, she consented more in compliance with a desire she had to learn something of the young beauty before mentioned, than to the pressing intreaties of the master and mistress of the house.

She

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She ordered her chariot home, and replaced herself in the seat she had quitted.

The morning being far elapsed, the young ladies withdrew, to attend the important affair of dress, when Mrs. Goodall being left alone with Mrs. Searls, (who was now placed at her toilette,) began to be inquisitive after the young person who had engaged her attention; observing 'she was extremely pretty.' 'The girl is well enough! (answered the other) and I am mistaken, if she has not a better opinion of her person than other folks.' 'I can hardly think that possible, (returned the lady) 'and must confess, I did not perceive any such consciousness in her looks, or behaviour; she seems extremely pensive.' 'Yes, the girl is a little given to melancholy, because she has not wherewithal to frequent public places, with my young ladies. Indeed, she has had a very improper bringing up, for a poor orphan, as she is, that has nothing to trust to.'

B 5

Will
Stepmother

sister

very Conduella
like The

The manner in which these words were delivered, heightened the contempt Mrs. Goodall began to conceive for the person that uttered them, as much as they did her compassion for the unknown: whose air and deportment seemed to pronounce her to be of no vulgar extraction. And the notion this lady had conceived, that some extraordinary accident had reduced her circumstances, induced her to enquire by what means she came into that family; not with an intent meerly to gratify a female curiosity, or to furnish herself with a story for the entertainment of the next company she went into; but to find out, if it was possible for her to be any way instrumental in the relief of an innocent young creature, apparently oppressed with grief.

Mrs. Searls, glad of an opportunity to communicate an account of misfortunes, I will not say, that she rejoiced in, but that she was so happy in disposition to be above feeling, related what you will find in the next chapter.

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CHAP. II.

Which lets the reader into the character of a fond parent, and careful guardian.

WE left Mrs. Searls, going to oblige her visitant with a recital which she was as impatient to give as the other to hear. ‘To be sure, madam,’ said she, ‘the girl you enquire after, is very well born: but what signifies that, as she has no money? for my part, I have no notion of a begging gentlewoman. Her father’s name was Wellers; he lived in the west of England, and had an estate of better than a thousand a year; but it was entailed on the male heir. He had, besides, a pretty fortune with his wife, but was so careless, poor man! that he presently ran through that. He was, I must say, notwithstanding his extravagance, a mighty good-natured man, and never denied any body any thing in his power; so indulgent a father, that he never contradicted his children. He had only two daughters; the youngest of

B 6

which

‘ which is the girl you saw: Lucy was
‘ four years old when her mamma died;
‘ her sister was about sixteen, and thought
‘ herself capable of managing the affairs
‘ of the family; but Mr. Wellers had an
‘ inclination to another sort of house-keep-
‘ er, and being too kind a father to marry
‘ to the detriment of his children, he took
‘ a mistress into his house, to the great
‘ vexation of Molly, his eldest daughter.
‘ Her pride could not brook a superinten-
‘ dant; for both the girls inherited the
‘ spirit of their poor mother, and appear
‘ to have little of their father’s sweet dis-
‘ position. However, they say, one should
‘ not speak ill of the dead; but as there is
‘ nothing I detest like a proud spirit, I
‘ can’t help saying it. Molly’s pride
‘ caused her to lead a very uneasy life at
‘ home; so madam, in a year or two,
‘ thought proper to run away with a
‘ young fellow, who was clerk to a West-
‘ India merchant.

‘ Mr. Wellers, with his usual good-na-
‘ ture forgave her; and gave her three
‘ hundred.

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' hundred pounds, but had the discretion
 ' never to see her after. This girl, hav-
 ' ing play'd him such a slippery trick, he
 ' was advis'd, when Lucy was turned of
 ' seven, to send her out, lest she should
 ' follow her sister's example : accordingly,
 ' he placed her at one of the most expen-
 ' sive boarding-schools in town ; where
 ' she remained till about six months ago.
 ' When her father died he appointed Mr.
 ' Searls executor to his will, and guardian
 ' to his daughter Lucy, with only the
 ' paltry sum of two hundred pound,
 ' for all his trouble ; and no body can con-
 ' ceive how much he has had, and is still
 ' likely to have : for the poor gentleman
 ' left all his affairs at sixes and sevens ! He
 ' willed, that after his just debts were dis-
 ' charged, his daughter Lucy should have
 ' the remainder ; and her guardian has
 ' managed so carefully, as to preserve an
 ' hundred and fifty pound, for her share.

' As soon as he had so far settled af-
 ' fairs, he took Lucy from school, where
 ' she could no longer be maintained ; and
 ' indeed

indeed had no occasion for an education proper for a twenty thousand pound fortune, for she was taught music, dancing, French, and Italian. They tell me, she can use her pen with great ease, in two or three languages; but for my part, I think, as Mr. Searls often says, one tongue is enough for a woman.'

'Perhaps too much,' interrupted Mrs. Goodall, 'but since no person can make use of two at the same instant, I have often wished, (when an impertinent woman has been dinning nonsense in my ears,) that she could have made use of every language but those I understood: but I beg I may not interrupt you, madam.'

Mrs. Searls then proceeded. 'Mr. Searls, was indebted fifty pounds to Mr. Wellers at the time of his death, and he, finding his ward would have so little, would have paid for her board out of it, until we could tell what to do with her: but this scheme I objected to;
for,

' for, though it may not be right to sound
 ' one's own praise, I must own, I always
 ' thought it justice, to fulfil the will of
 ' the dead to a tittle; and therefore, as the
 ' gentleman had expressly enjoined the pay-
 ' ment of his debts, for Mr. Searls to
 ' have done as he proposed, would have
 ' been against the express desire of the de-
 ' ceased. At the same time, that Lucy
 ' might be no loser by my justice, I propo-
 ' sed to take her into my family, and give
 ' her her board, for half a year, or till we
 ' could fix upon a proper settlement for
 ' her. I could think of nothing at first,
 ' but placing her in some reputable service,
 ' and offered to recommend her to a bra-
 ' zier's lady of my acquaintance, who
 ' wanted a young body, to sit in her
 ' nursery, and wait upon her children.
 ' You may depend upon it, she learnt no
 ' sort of business at school: indeed I know
 ' nothing she was taught that can be of
 ' any service to her, except to work at
 ' her needle, and cast accompts.'

' Poor thing!' cried Mrs. Goodall, ' I
 ' pity her! for certainly such an education
 ' must

‘ must render her very unfit for the place
‘ you proposed : what said she to it ?’
‘ Why, truly Madam was in her airs ;
‘ at the bare mention of it her proud
‘ spirit brought tears into her eyes ; she
‘ said, she hoped the little money she had
‘ was sufficient to bind her out to some
‘ trade : and proposed a milliner’s. Now
‘ that, you know, would not suit her po-
‘ verty ; for my own milliner, I have heard,
‘ had several hundred pounds to set up
‘ with, which this poor girl never can
‘ have. So I am thinking to get my
‘ mantua-maker to take her ; and by that
‘ time she has learnt to earn her living,
‘ I intend to desire Mr. Searls, to marry
‘ her to one of his under clerks ; and that
‘ will be a very handsome provision for
‘ her. I don’t wonder you condemn her
‘ education ; for surely such a one, is only
‘ fit to fill girls heads with intriguing no-
‘ tions, and if they have small fortunes,
‘ ’tis absolute ruin : there is Miss Searls’s,
‘ I believe, will be as handsome fortunes as
‘ most about town, and in dress and beha-
‘ viour, I flatter myself are excelled by few
‘ young

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‘ young ladies of the best fashion ; yet
‘ they have received no instruction but
‘ from myself, and their dancing-master’.

That moment the application of a patch to the tip of her tongue, gave Mrs. Goodall an opportunity of putting in a word.
‘ I am sorry (said that lady) you should so
‘ mistake me, as to imagine I condemn
‘ a liberal education. When I pitied Miss
‘ Wellers, it was not because she had received such advantages ; but since I
‘ perceive qualifications that might enable
‘ her to grace any condition, are either
‘ overlooked, or regarded to her disadvantage, meerly from the unhappy situation
‘ of her circumstances, I must confess, I
‘ scarcely know an object more deserving
‘ commiseration.’

She then proceeded to many invectives against the vices and carelessness of some parents, whose lenity to their children proceeds frequently from an indolent, rather than a good disposition. And observed, ‘ no man ought to be deemed a
‘ kind

‘ kind parent; who, whatever exterior
‘ fondness he might shew for his offspring,
‘ does not, as far as in his power, make
‘ provision against contingencies which all
‘ are liable to.’

A servant now entering, informed the ladies that dinner waited. The conversation at table was too general to be here related. Mrs. Goodall’s eyes and discourse were frequently turned to Miss Wellers, whose modest and apposite replies, served to confirm the good opinion she had conceived of the understanding and disposition of that young lady.

After tea, Mrs. Searls gave her visitant a hint that it was time to depart, by saying to Miss Wellers, ‘ I am afraid you
‘ won’t be so good-natured to take Miss
‘ into your lap, though the dear creature
‘ is too ill to go with us to the play, and
‘ I don’t like to trust her to the care of
‘ servants.’ Mrs. Goodall upon this said,
‘ You are going out then, madam? I ordered my chariot about this time; but if
‘ it

‘ it is not ready, I beg I may not detain
‘ you : as I perceive Miss Wellers is not to
‘ be of the party, I shall be very agreea-
‘ bly entertained with her conversation.
‘ And if the child you mention is well
‘ enough to come into the room, we will
‘ endeavour to divert her.’

This speech proceeded entirely from her humanity ; but guess the lady’s surprize, when she understood the indisposed was no other than a little mangy spaniel. She could not help blushing at this information. Mrs. Searls made many apologies on account of her engagement, which, she said, ‘ was occasioned by a card she had
‘ received from Lady Ramble, desiring
‘ her to meet her at the play, and she
‘ would not for the universe disappoint her
‘ ladyship.’ ‘ Besides, Ma’am,’ added Miss Patty, ‘ Mr. Garrick plays to night ; and
‘ I die, if I don’t see him ; and then,
‘ there is to be a harlequin entertainment,
‘ and I love that of all things in life.’

‘ And don’t you die too, madam !’ (said Mrs. Goodall, addressing Miss Wellers) to
see

see this famous actor? She replied, she had heard so much of his performances, that she should be very well pleased to see him, in some favourite character; adding, she imagined of all the public diversions in town, the theatres were the most rational. At the same time acknowledged her opinion was grounded on the report of others, as she herself was a stranger to them; and yet she could not but think that might be erroneous; otherwise she could not account for the conduct of many persons, who sacrificed their health and fortunes, in the pursuit of such pernicious and trifling amusements as they had been represented to her.

‘I am very glad,’ (answered Mrs. Searls, with a scornful smile) ‘your sentiments are so well adapted to your circumstances: for surely, child, it would be preposterous in you, to pretend a taste for diversions, calculated purely for us people of fashion. But I am afraid a spice of envy lurks under this seeming moderation; and as you are a great reader, I advise
‘you

‘ you to look into Æsop’s fables, where
 ‘ you will find a story of a fox and some
 ‘ grapes.’

Mrs. Goodall replied, ‘ That fable, as
 ‘ you observe, madam, is only applicable
 ‘ to the envious; but I believe Miss Wel-
 ‘ lers has too much discernment to envy
 ‘ any one the enjoyment of pleasures
 ‘ that must be attended with the sacrifices
 ‘ she mentions: and since you have quot-
 ‘ ed one wise fabulist, give me leave to
 ‘ recommend another to your perusal;
 ‘ L’Estrange, I think, will furnish you
 ‘ with the fable of the boys and the
 ‘ frogs.’

Mrs. Searls reddened, imagining by the
 lady’s manner of expressing herself, it was
 a retort, her reading having never reached
 so far as to comprehend the true meaning;
 yet suspecting the application would not
 be to her advantage, she was about to make
 a reply, which came with such difficulty,
 that the entrance of a servant, who in-
 formed the ladies their coaches waited,
 put

put it out of her head. Mrs. Goodall took a civil leave, desiring Mrs. Searls to bring Miss Wellers with her, when she came to Albemarle-street. She answered coolly, 'Miss shall wait on you some morning.' And the ladies stept into their respective vehicles.

C H A P. III.

If the reader has not yet found an opiate in this work, he is here presented with an approved recipe for one.

IN the coach which drove off with the banker's wife and daughters, a profound silence prevailed for the length of a street; when Miss Patty, unable to bear so painful a taciturnity, broke through it with, 'La, ma'am, I think that old woman has infected us with her stupidity! I wonder what papa meant by bringing her out of the dining-room to disturb us?'

'To be sure, my dear,' (answered the mother,) 'your papa finds his account in it,

‘ it, otherwise he would not have troubled us with her company.’ ‘ I have often been surpris’d,’ (said the eldest daughter) ‘ that a lady of your good sense could bear with the impertinent people that wait upon my papa about his nasty business. I am sure I would not condescend so much to any of his sex: why don’t you persuade him, madam, to take a house at t’other end of the town, near Lady Ramble?’

‘ Why, child,’ (replied Mrs. Searls) ‘ I have used all the arguments I could, in vain, for he is possessed with such a notion of wearing a gold chain, that I verily believe he would not quit his pretensions to it for a coronet.’ ‘ To be sure,’ answered Miss Searls, ‘ every body must be sensible my papa has done many actions that deserve the chain, but every one don’t meet with their deserts in this world; and I thought the ill success he has met with had made him lay aside all thoughts of the mayoralty.’ ‘ Why so?’ said Mrs. Searls, ‘ Why should not he

‘ he succeed as well as Barnard ? I suppose
‘ he is as rich.’

‘ But, ma’am,’ answered Patty, ‘ Sir
‘ John, they say, has a fine head-piece ;
‘ now, I don’t know whether papa’——

‘ Child,’ interrupted Mrs. Searls, ‘ if
‘ your papa’s head is not as well furnish-
‘ ed as any in the city, ’tis none of my
‘ fault.’ ‘ Isn’t it strange,’ continued
Patty, ‘ papa can’t wait upon us to-night ?’
‘ He is better where he is,’ returned the
mother, ‘ there’s no occasion that he should
‘ be always tied to one’s apron-string.’

This sort of conversation continued till
they reached the Old house, where we will
leave them, commenting on the dresses
of the audience and actors, and return to
Miss Wellers, who was perusing Mr. Ad-
dison’s vision of Mirza. Her attention was
called off by the sound of voices in the
next room, which a good deal alarmed her,
as Mr. Searls usually took the key of it
in his pocket, on account of his papers
that

that were there deposited. Imagining he was gone to the club, as he said he was going out with that intention, she stepped softly to the door, to listen, and distinctly heard him parlying with his wife's maid, in a strain very inconsistent with the sanctity he carried in his countenance. The servant's replies were in too low a voice, for her to be able to guess whether his discourse met with approbation or not.

To satisfy herself in this particular, she rang the bell, and desired to speak with Mrs. Brett. She soon came to her, in an apparent confusion, and beg'd to know what she wanted? Miss Wellers (looking stedfastly in her face,) said, ' Mrs. Brett, ' I heard a noise in the next room, and ' fearing some body had broke in, I went ' to listen. Do you know who was there ' with your master?' Brett conjecturing from this she had made a discovery, answered, ' when my master went out, he ' left the key with me, that I might dust ' the furniture, for he never lets any of the ' inferior servants go into that room; and
 Vol. I. C ' whilst

‘ whilst I was there, he came home for
‘ some bills out of his scruitore; and
‘ whether he was in liquor or no, I can’t
‘ tell, but he behaved in a strange manner,
‘ and locked the door. I told him, if he
‘ did not open it, I would raise the house,
‘ for I valued my virtue above all his
‘ riches. And made such a piece of work,
‘ that you heard me, no doubt. He then
‘ let me out; but he frightened me so, that
‘ I am determined to tell my lady of it,
‘ and leave the house to-morrow. And I
‘ would advise you, madam, to get out
‘ of his clutches, for he is a dangerous
‘ man.’

‘ Where should I go?’ answered the
young lady, ‘ I have no friend to grant
‘ me an assylum, and if I leave my guar-
‘ dian, who will take me in?’ Oh, Madam,
said Brett, ‘ such a young lady as you
‘ need not fear meeting with friends: I
‘ have an old aunt that cannot live for
‘ ever, and whenever she dies I shall be a
‘ house-keeper myself, and then no body
‘ shall be more welcome than Miss Wel-
‘ lers to an apartment in my house.’

The young lady replied, ‘ You are
‘ extremely obliging, but I hope I shall
‘ not long be troublesome to any body ;
‘ for I am determined not to let my guar-
‘ dian rest, till he has bound me to a
‘ milliner. And if I should not have mo-
‘ ney sufficient to set up for myself, I can
‘ earn a very comfortable subsistence as a
‘ journey-woman. And I think, Mrs.
‘ Brett, as you have repulsed your master,
‘ you have no occasion to divulge his be-
‘ haviour to your mistress, or leave your
‘ place so abruptly ; for that may cause an
‘ irreparable breach between them. And
‘ though I am under no obligations to the
‘ family, I would intreat you to stay a
‘ little longer, rather than disturb the peace
‘ of it. Since Mr. Searls knows your sen-
‘ timents, it is not probable he should
‘ molest you for the future. And you
‘ may give your mistress proper warning,
‘ and leave her, without letting her into a
‘ secret which must afford her uneasiness,
‘ and can do you no service.’

‘ Madam,’ answered Brett, ‘ what you
‘ say is very good and charitable. I am
‘ sure I am no mischief-maker, and per-
‘ haps I was too soon frightened. Though
‘ what woman that has lived in reputation,
‘ as I have done, would not have been af-
‘ fronted? For my share, I cannot think
‘ but somebody had made my master
‘ drunk, for I have heard he would
‘ turn away any servant for the least
‘ misdemeanor in regard to women; and
‘ every body knows he reads the bible
‘ whenever he has spare time: I don’t
‘ question but you have often heard him;
‘ for if twenty people came into the room,
‘ he would go on as loud as if he was by
‘ himself: he made me a present of one,
‘ when I was but a girl in his neighbour-
‘ hood; and therefore putting all things
‘ together, I think I will stay a little lon-
‘ ger, since it is your opinion I may safely.
‘ But really, madam, if I was in your place,
‘ I would accept the offer my master has
‘ made you, of going to Mrs. Santloe,
‘ the mantua maker; for I understand he
‘ never will consent to the other business
‘ for

‘ for you. And if you should not like,
 ‘ when you are there, I may be fixt in
 ‘ the manner I mentioned, and then you
 ‘ may come to me. For I must say, I
 ‘ pity the life you lead; and tho’ I am
 ‘ but a servant, I would not change places
 ‘ with you.’

She so frequently repeated her detestation of Mr. Searls’s late behaviour to her, and talked so largely of her own innocence, that Miss Wellers began to conceive a very good opinion of her; especially as her conduct, since that young lady had been in the family, had been very prudent. They conversed together the whole evening; and as Brett was turned of thirty, and seemed not unacquainted with the world, Miss Wellers began to think her the most conversable person in the house. But it grows time to leave her to her repose, and to see what became of Mrs. Goodall after quitting the banker’s. She had conceived so great an affection for Miss Wellers, and such indignation at the treatment she met with from her guardian’s family, that she

determined to use her utmost endeavours, to free her from the worst kind of slavery an ingenuous mind can suffer.

To this end, she went next morning to the school in which Miss Wellers had passed ten years, in order to examine into her behaviour whilst she was there. Mrs. Goodall had a long conference with the governess, who bestowed great encomiums on Miss Wellers, and said it was with the utmost regret she parted with her; and had not her guardian promised she should live with him, and be treated as his daughters, she would have desired no gratuity for her continuance with her, till she had been settled for life. But Mr. Searls did not chuse to leave her under her care, and without his consent she could not detain her. The governess then expatiated largely on the piety, humility, good-nature, and good-sense, of her pupil; commending the speedy progress she made in attaining all the accomplishments requisite to form an agreeable woman.

Mrs. Goodall, highly pleased with the result of her inquiries, returned to her own house, being fully determined to make Miss Wellers an offer of living with her.— As the reader is now somewhat acquainted with the merit of this young person, he will not wonder Mrs. Goodall, being a single woman and living alone, should make this offer, in order to lay an obligation on an agreeable companion, who from the sense of gratitude, would accompany her in solitude, and be a relief to many melancholy hours. But I must inform him, that that good lady had too much greatness of soul, and too great a desire to reward virtuous merit, to be actuated by any such selfish motive. And I really believe had the object been less amiable, and in the like distress, she would have acted as she did. Miss Wellers being under age, Mrs. Goodall thought it necessary to obtain her guardian's consent to her removal, before she acquainted her with her design. This scheme had taken up her thoughts the remaining part of the day; and the

C 4

pleasing

pleasing hopes of being instrumental in relieving an innocent young woman from oppression, and raising her from a state of despondency, lulled her into a repose, unknown to the ambitious statesman, designing lover, or mercenary miser.

But lest any of my readers should imagine such an opiate is not to be purchased but at the expence of the passions, I beg leave to inform them, that by retaining and employing them all, this lady procured that balmy sleep in which we left her. For her ambition soared above the highest sublunary honours, and aimed at nothing less than a never-fading crown in the regions of bliss. The unfeigned love that she bore to her great Creator and Redeemer, and which diffused itself to all his works, was conspicuous enough to prove she had not discarded that passion. And so covetous was she, as not to content herself with the riches and interest of this perishable world, but chose to deposite hers in that treasury where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt.

But

But for a farther account of this lady I refer the reader to some other opportunity, and shall now bring him to

C H A P. IV.

Which contains an interview between Mrs. Goodall and the banker.

IN order to perform my promise of bringing the reader a little more acquainted with the lady whom we left happily slumbering, I must inform him, that she was one of the coheiresses of a worthy and wealthy baronet; and for twenty years the wife of a gentleman of distinguished merit and fortune, by whom she had one son. This young gentleman, at the age of twenty, had contracted an indisposition, by too intense an application to his studies. His physicians pronounced him far gone in a consumption, and advised him to go to the southern parts of France, whither his indulgent mother attended him; and had the mortification to bring him back in his coffin. A circumstance that must

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greatly

greatly enhance her grief. She was a sincere mourner for the loss of this promising youth; but the true sense she had of the duty of resignation to the divine will, and a consciousness that the deceased was duly prepared for his exit, enabled her to bear this severe stroke, not only without repining, but with some degree of alacrity.

She was, at the time she became acquainted with Miss Wellers, in the seventeenth year of her widowhood, and the fifty-ninth of her age. She enjoyed a jointure of fifteen-hundred pounds a year, which she managed with such œconomy, as not to abate of the figure she made in her husband's life, and yet bestowed annually some hundred pounds in charity; for to that use, she appropriated all she could save out of her income: not, that she bestowed her alms indiscriminately on all who under pretence of poverty were recommended to her notice, but carefully examined into the merit of the objects; and such who, by unavoidable losses in trade, were become indigent; industrious persons
that

that laboured under the pressure of sickness, or had large families to support; young deserted orphans, and widows who lived reputably; such were the objects of her bounty, both in town and country. Her domesticks were most of them grown grey in her servitude; which by her humanity was rendered so light, that they preferred a continuance under her hospitable roof to any other settlement.

This lady, the morning after she had been at the boarding-school, dispatched a card to Mr. Searls, 'desiring to speak with him upon business.' And in a few hours after the receipt of it, he was making his bows, and desiring to 'know her pleasure.' The lady replied, 'I can't tell, Mr. Searls, what you will think of me, when I assure you I have a great inclination to deprive you of a treasure that is in your possession.' 'Madam!' (interrupted the banker) 'Nay,' (continued the lady) 'I was almost tempted to steal, but my conscience would not permit me without acquainting you, that if you

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should

‘ should be robbed you may know the
‘ thief.’

‘ Heaven forbid !’ (answered Searls, with
a countenance in which the strongest marks
of astonishment appear’d) ‘ that I should
‘ suspect a lady of your goodness can be
‘ guilty of felony ! especially as I have had
‘ such high proofs of your justice in all
‘ my dealings with you, particularly in the
‘ roan gelding that I purchased last spring,
‘ of good Mr. Stedman your steward.
‘ You will pardon me, madam, if I do
‘ not readily comprehend your meaning.’

‘ Indeed’ (replied Mrs. Goodall) ‘ I have
‘ no design upon your money ; but should
‘ be glad to rob you of the company of
‘ your pretty ward. She seems to be un-
‘ der a dejection of spirits, which change
‘ of scene may remove ; therefore, with
‘ your leave, I would take her with me
‘ into the country.’

‘ To be sure, madam, miss Lucy is not
‘ quite so merry as I could wish : though

‘ I cannot guess what should disturb her ;
‘ she is not the first young woman that
‘ has had a good bringing up, and been
‘ disappointed of a portion. And ever
‘ since she has been in my house, she has
‘ had no lack of any thing. I have allowed
‘ her to sit at table with my wife and
‘ daughters, as if she had been a relation.
‘ And if she had paid thirty pounds
‘ per annum for her board, she could not
‘ have lived better : ’tis true, my wife does
‘ not think it proper to take her out a visit-
‘ ing, because she has no cloaths fit to ap-
‘ pear with her in, now she is in mourn-
‘ ing : for the same reason she cannot car-
‘ ry her to any public diversions ; but I
‘ have more than once offered to treat her
‘ with a play in the two shilling gallery,
‘ and would have sent a servant with her,
‘ but she always slighted such favours.
‘ And I doubt she is too proud to accept
‘ your offer. Neither do I think she is fit
‘ to wait upon you : though I would by
‘ no means hinder her of a good place,
‘ yet I must say she is young ; and I ques-
‘ tion whether she is enough acquainted
‘ with business for your service.

‘ I am sorry, sir,’ (replied Mrs. Goodall, with as grave an air as she could possibly assume) ‘ you should so mistake my intentions, as to think I should desire to take a young lady of Miss Wellers’s birth and accomplishments, on the footing of a menial servant. No, sir, I think she is qualified to make me a social friend, and agreeable companion; and in that capacity I should be glad of her company.’

‘ I suppose, madam, you know what Miss Lucy has to trust to:—and that she cannot demand her money till she is full twenty-one years of age. Though, in consideration of the regard I had for her worthy father, I am ready to allow her the full interest of it, at four per cent.’

‘ Sir,’ (answered the lady) ‘ I will engage that she shall not take the principal out of your hands till you please. All I require of you is your consent to put her under my care.’

‘ Well,

‘ Well, madam, I will consider of your demand, and return you an answer in a few days :—if you have no further business with me at this time, I must humbly take my leave, for my presence is impatiently expected at the court of Hustings.’

Mrs. Goodall would not suffer him to depart, till he had given her a promise of a speedy reply. On his return home, he pondered upon this proposition, and did not much relish it, as it would put his fair ward more out of his power than he chose. He had, indeed, wished to remove her from his wife’s eye, of whom he stood in some awe, though he had long since ceased to regard her in any other light than an incumbrance; yet, being of a cowardly disposition, the ascendancy she had gained whilst her youth and beauty lasted, was not so easily to be recalled as his heart. And he still continued, in appearance, to pay that homage to her opinion that he had formerly thought due to her person:

not

not that he now had the least regard for either. But he had been so accustomed to communicate his transactions to her, that he dared not to conceal the affair upon which he was that day summoned, as she had seen the card, and was very inquisitive about it. He ventured to acquaint her with what had passed at this visit, hoping she would find as much to object against complying with the lady's request, as himself. When, contrary to his expectations, he found her not averse to Mrs. Goodall's proposal.

As she had not the same reason her husband had, for detaining his ward, she was very well pleased with an expedient that would rid her of an observer, whose prudence and superior talents had rendered her an object of envy and dread. And as most people of Mrs. Searls's narrowness of soul, are apt to measure the generosity of others by the low standard of their own; she, by this calculation, imagined Mrs. Goodall designed Miss Wellers for a toad-eater, a kind of animal that city ladies

LUCY WELLERS. 41

dies are not intitled by their rank to keep. And therefore, as a final answer to all her husband's objections, she gave him to-understand, in a peremptory tone, that ' it ' was her *will* the girl should go.'

Upon which declaration Miss Wellers was called into the room, and acquainted by her guardian, (not without frequent interruptions from his wife) with Mrs. Goodall's intentions. He told her it was at her own option, either to accept the lady's offer, or prepare to go to Mrs. Santloe. She was desired to consider of it, and return her answer next day.

When Miss Wellers retired to her chamber, she began seriously to reflect on the proposals that had been made to her ; and having conceived a veneration for Mrs. Goodall, from the time she first saw her, and imagining a lady of her years and character, could have no sinister view in making her such an offer, she came to a resolution to accept it. The disagreeable situation she was in at this time, made her

CON-

conjecture any change must be for the better.

She was just come to this determination, when Brett entered her chamber, making many apologies for intruding on her retirement; but said, she could not be easy till she had asked her the grounds of a report that was spread in the family, of their being likely to lose the company of so accomplished a young lady.

‘ Indeed, Mrs. Brett,’ (answered Miss Wellers,) ‘ I have been ruminating on the kindness of Mrs. Goodall’s offer, and think it too advantageous to refuse.’ ‘ Are you, madam,’ (returned the officious chamber-maid) ‘ then determined to go moping with that crotched old woman into the country? I thought you had been a lady of better spirit, than voluntarily to submit to all the fancies of a whimsical old woman. Alas! my dear young lady, you know not the deceit there is in the world, but you will remember my words one day. There is no
‘ trusting

‘ trusting to appearances. I know Mrs.
 ‘ Goodall has a thousand maggots, which
 ‘ must render her company insupportable.

‘ You forget, sure, Mrs. Brett :’ (replied
 the young lady) ‘ did not you advise me
 ‘ to leave this house the first opportunity ;
 ‘ and when can I meet with such a one as
 ‘ now presents itself ?’

‘ Madam, answered Brett, I said many
 ‘ things in my passion for which I now con-
 ‘ demn myself : but I am always so fluster-
 ‘ ed, whenever my virtue is called in ques-
 ‘ tion, that I have no guard upon my
 ‘ tongue. However, I am convinced my
 ‘ master was overtaken that night ; and if
 ‘ he had been in his sober senses, he would
 ‘ not have given me such cause to be alarm-
 ‘ ed. Yet I don’t advise you to continue
 ‘ in the family, as you must endure many
 ‘ mortifications from the captious temper
 ‘ of my lady, and the young ones. You
 ‘ may go to Mrs. Santloe, who has too
 ‘ much good nature to lay you under any
 ‘ restraint ; and your time, when you have
 ‘ done

‘ done work, will be all your own. You
‘ will have no body to say, Why do you
‘ this ? I can assure you her ’prentices take
‘ a great deal of pleasure, and go in and
‘ come out as they like ; for she is an ene-
‘ my to all confinement. Besides, a great
‘ many gentlemen and ladies of fashion
‘ frequent her house, that you will not be
‘ shut up like a nun, as you would be
‘ in Mrs. Goodall’s frightful rambling old
‘ house, in the country. What I say, ma-
‘ dam, is for your good ; I wish you would
‘ not be too hasty, but consult your pil-
‘ low.’

The young lady replied, she would con- sider of what she had said, and bid her adieu, saying, she should be glad to be left alone. Having made this declaration, Brett withdrew. And I think it but manners to do the same.

CHAP. V.

An account of a correspondence between a widow lady and Mr. Searls, with the result of it.

AFTER Brett had left Miss Wellers, she passed a sleepless night; her thoughts being engaged on what she had heard. It was not impossible for Mrs. Goodall to be a humourist, as Brett had represented her: but then she reflected, that she ought to compound for little fancies, in a person to whom she should be under such obligations. 'Tis true, by a removal to Mrs. Santloe's, she would be free from dependance; but tho' her pride was not of that sort, that could render her above receiving favours from such a lady as Mrs. Goodall, it was too great to relish the life and conversation of those she must be upon a level with at the mantua-maker's.

The

The next day, therefore, when her guardian demanded her answer, she told him, she should, with gratitude and pleasure, wait upon Mrs. Goodall, whenever she thought proper. In consequence of which reply, the following epistle was sent.

To Mrs. Goodall, at her house in
Albemarle street, Present.

Mrs. Goodall!

Madam,

IN reference to what you said when I waited upon you, according to order, concerning your taking my ward, Miss Lucy Wellers, down into the country with you: I have considered of the business, and have acquainted my ward with the case. And I find she is inclinable to accept your offer. Therefore, if you will give yourself the trouble to come to my house in Lombard-street, you may talk about the affair with Miss Lucy and self. My wife and daughters
send

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‘ send their united compliments; my ward
‘ likewise sends hers. Pray give mine to
‘ all enquiring friends. Which is all at
‘ present

From your humble servant
to command,

SIMON SEARLS.

The day after the receipt of this letter, Mrs. Goodall sent her steward with an answer to Mr. Searls, in which she appointed the next morning for meeting him and the young lady, in order to take her home with her. Mr. Stedman desired to be introduced to Miss Wellers, to whom he delivered a letter, and five guineas. Upon opening the epistle she found it contained these lines.

‘ Dear Miss Wellers,

‘ **T**HE information I last night re-
‘ ceived from your guardian, fills
‘ me with the pleasing hopes, that the
‘ proposal made you, through him, will
‘ be

‘ be as agreeable to your inclinations, as
‘ your approbation of it is to,

Dear Madam,

Your sincere friend,
and most affectionate
humble servant,

SARAH GOODALL;

‘ P. S. ‘ By some hints which escaped
‘ from Mr. Searls, I have reason to think
‘ you may have occasion for a trifle, which
‘ I have ordered Stedman to leave with
‘ you ; and beg you wou’d put it to what
‘ use you think proper, on your leaving
‘ the family.’

The kindness of this lady’s expressions,
and present, threw her young friend into
so much confusion, that she could hardly
recover herself enough to make a reply ;
however, she sent one filled with respect
and gratitude, assuring her, she should im-
patiently expect the honour of an interview,
and was ready to attend her at a moment’s
warning.

Mrs.

Mrs. Searls, finding she was so soon to be eased of Miss Wellers's company, began to sooth her; and being apprehensive she would represent her in no very advantageous light, as she was conscious her behaviour to that young lady could not stand a scrutiny, affected to treat her with great complaisance.

'My dear,' said she, 'I am sorry we are so soon to be deprived of your agreeable company; but since it is for your good, I must be content. I did intend to have taken you with me to the play to-night, but as it happens I can't go myself, I beg therefore you would accept of a ticket for the pit; and Brett shall attend you.'

Miss Wellers returned her thanks in a cool manner, but declined the offer; and set about preparations for her removal. She presented Brett with a guinea, who took it with the air and gravity of a physician, heartily wishing her health and hap-

piness; and intreated her not to forget her, for she should be always ready to serve her by night or by day.

The other servants experienced her bounty, as far as her circumstances would allow of. Every person in the family expressed great concern at her quitting it; and I have reason to think were all sincere in that respect, except the lady and her daughters, who longed for Mrs. Goodall's arrival with little less impatience than Miss Wellers did.

However, all in good time:—we would not, if we can avoid it, hurry that good lady, any more than we would chuse to tire the reader, by lengthening out this chapter.

C H A P. VI.

In which will be shewn the possibility of high people's being descended from low people.

MR S. Goodall arrived at the banker's at the time she had appointed; and addressing Miss Wellers in the tenderest terms,

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terms, begged to know if she would favour her with her company. To which she assented, in a very modest and respectful manner ; and after taking a ceremonious farewell of her guardian, and his family, was handed by Mrs. Goodall to her coach, and desired to take her place in it, to the great amazement of Mrs. Searls ; who whenever she favoured Miss Wellers with a seat in hers, had always placed herself and daughters commodiously, before she was admitted to a back-seat.

During their little journey, Mrs. Goodall informed her new companion of the visit she had made at her boarding-school, and the account she had received from her late governess. And that day was employed in acquainting her with her way of life : She said, ‘ I am neither by age or inclination suited to a very gay one. I keep some company of the best sort, both in town and country ; and tho’ I seldom frequent public diversions, I shall have no objection to your partaking of them in a moderate way, accompanied

‘ by some ladies to whose care I can en-
‘ trust you ; for I would not have you im-
‘ agine I should desire you to lead the life
‘ of a recluse. From the character I have
‘ heard of you, and from what I myself
‘ observed in your aspect, I was enduced
‘ to offer my friendship and protection
‘ to a person whose youth and inexperience
‘ might lead her into error. And I assure
‘ you, my dear, the affection I have con-
‘ ceived for you is not to be lessened but
‘ by a deviation from the paths you have
‘ hitherto pursued. I beg you would sted-
‘ fastly adhere to the precepts you have
‘ received from your good governess ; and
‘ impute the admonitions I now give, and
‘ which I shall think it my duty to repeat
‘ as I see occasion, to the result of that
‘ friendship I profess for you, and not to
‘ any authority you may imagine my
‘ years and circumstances might permit
‘ me to assume. I would, my dear, engage
‘ your confidence and affection, by remov-
‘ ing that diffidence which I perceive in
‘ your countenance : not that I think a
‘ young

‘ young person just entering into life, can
 ‘ have too modest an opinion of her own
 ‘ merit. But, in the commerce between you
 ‘ and me, I would inspire you with other
 ‘ sentiments than those which arise from
 ‘ awe, and would desire you to regard me
 ‘ rather as an indulgent parent, and faithful
 ‘ friend, than meerly as a monitor, whom
 ‘ you may think yourself in duty bound
 ‘ to obey.’

‘ I am sure madam’ (replied the young
 lady) ‘ the obligations you have conferred
 ‘ upon me, has placed you in the light of
 ‘ my guardian angel; and words would
 ‘ but weakly express the gratitude with
 ‘ which my heart abounds, upon this occa-
 ‘ sion. But be assured, my dear lady, no
 ‘ endeavours shall be wanting, on my part,
 ‘ to regulate my conduct according to your
 ‘ kind admonitions.’

‘ Then, my dear,’ (answered the lady)
 ‘ you must cast off all reserve; and I shall
 ‘ find an ample reward for the services I
 ‘ intend you, by your perseverance in those

‘good principles which, I observe with
‘pleasure, you have so early imbibed.’

After some farther discourse of this nature, the elder lady conducted the younger to the apartment she had allotted for her: which consisted of a handsome bed-chamber, and a dressing-room, furnished with a few well chosen books, which she advised her to peruse; saying, she thought it full as requisite to furnish her with the means of adorning her mind as her person. She then recommended her to the protection of that being who *is about our path and about our bed*; and bid her adieu for that night.

Miss Wellers retired to bed, but not to rest. Reflections on the happy change in her circumstances were no less enemies to her repose, than her late disagreeable situation had been. Some weeks passed on, before she could believe the harmony in which she lived, the order and regularity observed throughout this well conducted family, was any more than a pleasing delusion. She had, in this time, been supplied,

plied, by the bounty of her patroness, with apparel proper to appear in ; and was introduced by her to several families of distinction, not as a dependant upon her, but as the daughter of Mr. Wellers.

I will not attempt to describe the situation of her mind, at these instances of affection and generosity ; it will suffice to affirm, it was completely filled with love and gratitude.

One morning, as these ladies were sitting at breakfast, the servant in waiting said the steward's mother was in the house. Upon which Mrs. Goodall ordered that Mrs. Stedman should be shown up.

The servant returned with a woman who appeared to be about threescore ; of a jolly robust make, and florid countenance, which seemed to indicate the utmost good-humour and simplicity.

After many ' no I thank ye's, and I know my place better,' she was seated by the ex-

press command of the lady of the house ; who, with her usual complacency, enquired after the health and welfare of every individual in her family, not forgetting her little grandson ; observing he was a fine child.

The old woman, whose eyes sparkled at the mention of him, answered, ‘ Aye ! so he is, madam ; though I say it, there is not a finer boy in our county, nor the next to it. I would fain have brought him to London to see his uncle, but his mother was afraid of the small-pox. Lauk a day ! well, madam, how you differ from madam Searls !

‘ Who is that ?’ (replied the lady) ‘ why madam Searls that lives in Lombard-street. Do you know her ?’ said Mrs. Goodall.

‘ Know her ! Aye, madam, I have known her ever since she was as high as this table, though now belike ‘ she don’t know me. Well ! truly, times are mainly alter’d since she were Patt Barret.’

‘ Then

‘ Then you are acquainted with her family, I presume, Mrs. Stedman,—pray, what was her father?’

‘ As honest a man as ever broke bread, and a pains-taking man.—My husband and her’s were very great when he used the sea, and when I went to meet my husband after a voyage, I used to lodge at his house.’

‘ What business was he of? pray Mrs. Stedman.’

‘ Why he were once a pattin-maker. But he had the good hap to marry a jolly young widow, that kept a kind of a chandler’s shop in Wapping, and so he left his own trade to follow her’s: and they got money apace, and having no child but Patt, Mr. Searls had a good portion with her. My daughter and she are near upon of an age. And since I had but one girl, my husband was willing to give her a little good *larning*; so he wished me to let her board half a year at Mr. Barret’s; and she were a playmate for Patt, and *larn*t to dance with her: but though Patt were a genteel body

‘ in the face, she never could get the bend
‘ of the knee like my Bett.’

‘ I suppose, Mrs. Stedman, you have
‘ been to see your old acquaintance since
‘ you came to town?’

‘ Aye, madam, to be sure! for as I han’t
‘ been at London since she married, think
‘ I, if I don’t pay madam Searls a visit,
‘ she may think I am grown proud. So
‘ I enquired out her house; and when I
‘ came there, one of her livery men told
‘ me she was not stirring, though ’twere
‘ near upon the stroke of twelve. He
‘ prayed me to tell him my name, and
‘ said, If so be I had any business with
‘ his lady, I might call two hours after.
‘ Nay, said I, I have no great matter of
‘ business, only give my kind love and
‘ service to your mistress; and then I told
‘ him my name, and where I come from.
‘ I had no time to go again that day:
‘ *howsoever*, I went the day after, at
‘ two o’clock, and she were asleep again;
‘ for my share, I wish she don’t *supresse*
‘ her senses.

The

‘ The man told me I need not call no more, for that his lady said, she did not know me, nor my name neither. So I turned away, and I thought of the old proverb, “ set a beggar on horse-back ; ” — ‘ but I can tell her, I shall never darken her doors again.’

Miss Wellers quitting the room upon some occasion, the talkative old woman said to Mrs. Goodall, ‘ Pray, madam, who is that pretty young lady ? ’ and not waiting for a reply, went on, ‘ Lauk-a-day ! she favours a lady that I knew once ; mayhap she may be a kinswoman of hers.’

‘ What lady is that ? ’ (interrogated Mrs. Goodall) ‘ why, madam, she was a young gentlewoman that lived with an old uncle, one captain Simpson ; her maiden name was Miss Molly Simpson, and the captain were her *gardeean*, for her father and mother died over seas. She had a brother too that lived in the East-Indies ; but I know nothing of him. She had a matter of five

‘ thousand pounds to her portion, and she
‘ married a squire that lived hard by : his
‘ name was Wellers ; but he was a solemn
‘ rake ; and I doubt he has broke poor
‘ young madam’s heart, for he spent all his
‘ money *bockiting* with his drunken mates.’

‘ Is this lady living ?’ (demanded Mrs.
Goodall) ‘ I can’t *fartenly* say,’ (answered
the old woman) ‘ but I hope she is ; for
‘ though she were an outlandish woman,
‘ she were as clever as if she had been bred
‘ and born at London. I don’t know ;
‘ she were ailing when I see her, so ’tis like
‘ she may be dead, for I have heard no-
‘ thing of her for years. I han’t been in
‘ those parts since my husband took to
‘ farming. But Mr. Searls can tell what
‘ is become on her, to be sure, for old
‘ captain Simpson were the making of
‘ him.’

‘ How came that about, Mrs. Sted-
‘ man ?’ ‘ Why madam, you must under-
‘ stand ; Mr. Searls were an anchor-smith’s
‘ son at Plymouth, where the captain lived,
‘ and

' and because his father had a mort of chil-
 ' dren, he could not do a power for Simon;
 ' but the captain perceiving he was a *cute*
 ' lad, took a fancy to him, and recom-
 ' mended him to one Sir——somebody—
 ' something, for to be his clerk. And he
 ' were so diligent in his trade, that the
 ' captain who were a very *premurious* man,
 ' and loved money, was pleased with him;
 ' and he funned the old captain up so, that
 ' when he died he made a will, and left Mr.
 ' Searls all his riches, and he were worth
 ' a mortal deal: But folks said he did not
 ' do the right thing by Miss Molly and
 ' her brother. When Mr. Searls got all
 ' this, he went in partners with the ban-
 ' ker, Sir! Sir!——I can't hit on his
 ' name.——Now pray, madam, who is
 ' that young gentlewoman?"

Mrs. Goodall, observing Mrs. Stedman
 was not endued with a retentive faculty,
 answered, ' she is a young lady who lives
 ' with me.' And that was all she chose to
 say; then ringing the bell for her woman
 to dress her, Mrs. Stedman withdrew.

Mrs.

Mrs. Goodall ordered her woman to step to the steward, and caution him and the servants against mentioning Miss Wellers's name before Mrs. Stedman, for reasons the reader will find in some subsequent chapter.

CH A P. VII.

The company at a visit described.

AS soon as Mrs. Goodall was alone with Miss Wellers, she asked her, if she had an uncle abroad? She replied, ' I was so young when I left Devonshire, and have never been at my father's house since I first went to school, that I am very ignorant in regard to my own family, and know nothing but what I have been inform'd of from my guardian. He has told me I had such a relation, who once lived at Madrafs, but he imagined he had been dead some time, as he had heard nothing of him for many years.'

Mrs. Goodall, taking no further notice to her of the matter, went, as soon as she had

had dined, to an East-India director, with whom she had been long acquainted, and desired him to write to his correspondents abroad, to enquire after Mr. Simpson, and if he was living, to inform him of the situation of his niece.

Her friend engaged to perform her request, by the ships that were then going out. And she returned to accompany Miss Wellers in the evening, in a visit to a lady of great distinction; but said not a word of the affair she had been about in the city, being loth to encourage hopes, the disappointment of which might render her uneasy.

The company Miss Wellers was introduced into, seemed to open a new world to her view; and next morning she thanked her benefactress, for the pleasure she had received, and desired her to favour her with some account of the company she had seen the preceding evening.

‘My dear,’ (replied Mrs. Goodall) ‘I shall comply with your request, as it may
be

‘ be a means to guard you against being
‘ imposed on by appearances. Otherwise,
‘ I never chuse to make remarks on com-
‘ pany withdrawn.’

‘ The lady we visited, you know, is of
‘ the highest quality. You seemed de-
‘ lighted with the affability that appeared
‘ in her countenance and behaviour. The
‘ civility with which she treated you was
‘ not meerly specious, but the result of
‘ good-nature and humanity, for which
‘ she is remarkable; and I cannot give you
‘ a truer idea of her character, or the man-
‘ ner in which she passes her time, than by
‘ desiring you to call to mind the descrip-
‘ tion given by Lady Grace, in the comedy
‘ of the Provok’d Husband. She, therefore,
‘ well merited your attention.

‘ But I was concerned to see you give
‘ such heed to the discourse of that fine
‘ gentleman, whose person and address, I
‘ must own, have a very plausible appear-
‘ ance; yet, under all that complaisance
‘ and fair outside, lurks the treacherous
‘ friend,

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‘ friend, designing lover, and abandoned
‘ debauchee. To prove I do him no
‘ wrong in these assertions, I will give you
‘ a short sketch of his history.

‘ He is a younger son of a good family,
‘ and had by nature many valuable en-
‘ dowments, some of which he has pervert-
‘ ed to the worst of uses, and totally
‘ eradicated others.

‘ Before he had attained the reputation
‘ he now has, and whilst some remains of
‘ virtue lurked in his breast, he fell in love
‘ with a young lady, his equal in birth,
‘ and his superior in many respects. But
‘ his relations thinking her fortune too
‘ small to atone for the narrowness of
‘ his, strenuously opposed his passion, which
‘ at that time was too prevalent to yield to
‘ either threats or intreaties. And he per-
‘ severed in attacking the heart of one of
‘ the most accomplished women in the
‘ nation, with all the ardour and disinter-
‘ estedness imaginable.

‘ You observed his figure ; heard his
‘ conversation ; which, joined to the charac-
‘ ter

ter he then bore, and his continual assiduities, made an impression in his favour that time has not been able to erase. Several years did he profess himself this lady's lover; and as his profession obliged him to long and frequent absences from his native country, she felt the sharpest pangs of grief, on account of the danger to which he was exposed; and, for some latter years, the frequent accounts she heard of his gallantries, added a poignancy to them. He had the art to engage her to him by the strictest ties, except those of the legal ceremony. But they were faint compared to those he had upon her affections, which were strong enough to repel all the offers her friends pressed her to accept. Her refusal of many advantageous matches, drew down the displeasure of some who wished her well.

After a courtship of several years, in which he had vowed the sincerest affection for her, he used every artifice to gain her

' her on dishonourable terms. Finding all
 ' his attempts of that nature baffled by her
 ' prudence, he grew cool; and this change
 ' cut her to the heart, as her regard for
 ' him was not to be diminished even by
 ' his ungenerous proceeding. To rid him-
 ' self of reproaches he justly merited, and
 ' perhaps to gratify a passion which had
 ' not honour for its guide, he proposed a
 ' private marriage to her. She, fearing a
 ' refusal might endanger her reputation,
 ' as he continued to visit her, and being
 ' glad to accept him on any terms consist-
 ' ent with virtue, consented.

' After their marriage she lodged in the
 ' same house with him for some time;
 ' when, finding he did not chuse to ac-
 ' knowledge her for his wife, and not being
 ' able to bear the distant behaviour and
 ' freezing looks of her intimate acquain-
 ' tance, who began to regard her as a kept
 ' mistress, she retired to a seat he has
 ' many miles distant from the metropolis.
 ' He never attempted to detain her,
 ' but

‘ but consoles himself in her absence with
‘ a seraglio of the most abandoned women
‘ of the town: tho’ amongst these wretches
‘ he has a favourite sultana, who is
‘ not only destitute of those accomplish-
‘ ments that adorn his unhappy wife, but
‘ even of beauty, the usual pretence for
‘ such an infidelity.

‘ However, I hope, as he is but in the
‘ meridian of life, he may yet recover
‘ from the torrent of vice that at present
‘ overwhelms his brightest faculties; and
‘ that the extraordinary patience, pru-
‘ dence, and conjugal virtue of his lady,
‘ will one day appear bright enough to
‘ dispel the mist in which he is involved.

‘ That antiquated lady, that inveighed
‘ so much against the forwardness of the
‘ age, and the vanity of girls, I remem-
‘ ber to have been, twenty years ago, one
‘ of the greatest coquets about town.
‘ The gentleman who was remarkably
‘ plain in his dress, and modest in his con-
‘ versation, is a senator, famous for the
‘ clearness

‘ clearness and weight of his speeches, in
 ‘ one of the greatest assemblies in the na-
 ‘ tion.

‘ That gay lady, who was dressed in the
 ‘ height of the mode, and talked so flu-
 ‘ ently of the charms of masquerades, ope-
 ‘ ras and riddottos, is rendered one of the
 ‘ most unhappy women breathing, by the
 ‘ very cause which would have had a quite
 ‘ contrary effect, on any woman of more
 ‘ thought, and less vivacity. I mean, by
 ‘ being united to a gentleman who has the
 ‘ strictest notions of justice and œconomy,
 ‘ of solid sense and approved merit. But his
 ‘ resolution of keeping within the bounds
 ‘ of his income, and making provision for
 ‘ a numerous family of children, obliges
 ‘ him sometimes to remonstrances not at
 ‘ all suited to the disposition of his lady.
 ‘ And this occasions such altercations, that
 ‘ she looks upon him as a mean-spirited
 ‘ fellow ; and regrets that she did not be-
 ‘ stow her person and fortune on such a
 ‘ pretty gentleman as handed her into the
 ‘ room.

‘ You

• You must have observed the exact
• symmetry of his whole dress; and how
• fearful he was of approaching the fire,
• lest he should endanger his complexion.
• With what contempt he regarded the
• plain-dress'd gentleman; and with a grin
• seemed ever prepared to receive his
• speeches, whilst his own was directed to
• the lady he introduced, and their pur-
• port too light to have left any traces in
• your memory.—The rest of the com-
• pany, had nothing remarkable enough,
• either in their conversation or behaviour,
• to animadvert upon.'

Mrs. Goodall pausing here, Miss Wel-
lers expressed her acknowledgments for the
pains she took to guard her against error,
and treasured up all she had said, in her
mind: for she frequently set before her,
the inadvertencies the younger part of her
sex were liable to; and as often cautioned
her against the insinuations of the designing
part of the other. But I cannot expatiate
so

so largely on this subject as is necessary, because there is a person below who wants to be introduced to Miss Wellers.

C H A P. VIII.

Miss Wellers goes to Chelsea, without visiting Ranelagh, the Physic-garden, or Don Saltero's coffee-house.

THE person that was enquiring for Miss Wellers, proved to be Brett. The young lady ordered her to be shewn into her apartment, and received her with all the affability imaginable. To say truth, she had taken a great liking to this woman, as she thought she had prudence, and a larger portion of sense than any she had ever met with, in one of her degree.

In answer to Miss Wellers's enquiries after her guardian's family, she replied, ' They were very well, madam, when I left them three weeks ago.' ' I hope Mr. Searls's behaviour has not obliged you to quit your place,' (said the young lady.)

' No,

‘ No, madam, I assure you that is not
‘ the case; my master has ever since that
‘ night, behaved according to his own cha-
‘ racter of goodness; but, as my aunt is
‘ dead, I have, thank heaven, sufficient
‘ to maintain me out of service; and my
‘ lady having another servant ready to
‘ come in my place, she suffered me
‘ to leave the house a week after I re-
‘ ceived the news; and I have now taken
‘ lodgings at Chelsea, where I should be
‘ proud to entertain you. Come, my dear
‘ young lady, I must not be denied the fa-
‘ vour of your company, to drink a dish
‘ of tea with me in my new lodgings.’
She was so pressing, that Miss Wellers re-
plied, ‘ With Mrs. Goodall’s leave, I will
‘ call upon you some morning before I go
‘ into the country.’

Brett seemed highly delighted with
her compliance, but begg’d ‘ she might
‘ know on what day to expect her, for she
‘ had some affairs to transact, on account
‘ of her aunt’s death, which called her
‘ often

‘ often out ; and she would not be absent
 ‘ when she honoured her with a visit, for
 ‘ any money. She therefore hoped Miss
 ‘ Wellers would favour her with a line,
 ‘ by the penny-post, the day before she
 ‘ came.’

The young lady having taken down her direction, promised she should have the notice she desired. They then fell into other conversation, in which Brett said,
 ‘ Miss Patty Searls has received several
 ‘ visits from a fine gentleman, that she became acquainted with at lady Ramble’s
 ‘ rout. He pretends violent love to her,
 ‘ and her mamma countenances his pretensions ; but I am afraid he is an Irish fortune-hunter. Miss Searls is much displeased with her sister for the encouragement she gives him, and frequently
 ‘ blesses herself, that the man had not the presumption to trouble her with his impertinence ; which, she says, he would have done, had she not prudently repelled his advances.’

Miss Wellers made no reply to all this, having no desire to enquire into the affairs of others : such sort of conversation always passed unheeded by her ; though, as she knew Mrs. Searls was fond of such like informations, she the less wondered that Brett should endeavour to entertain her in this manner.

Brett, having reminded Miss Wellers of her promise, took her leave. And the young lady returned to Mrs. Goodall, and acquainted her with the request that had been made to her, and asked if she approved of her compliance with it ?

She answered, ‘ My dear, you are your own mistress ; I shall never pretend to lay you under any restraint ; but as you think proper to ask my opinion, by what you have told me of that woman, I think it would look like pride to refuse her. Martin, my woman, has a relation at Chelsea, and she shall attend you any morning you please.’ Miss Wellers then
fix’d

fix'd on the Thursday following, and informed Mrs. Brett of her intentions.

Accordingly, on Thursday, Miss Wellers set out, in Mrs. Goodall's chariot, attended by Mrs. Martin, with an intention of returning by three o'clock to dinner. She alighted at the house Brett had directed her to, and her attendant drove on to her relation's, having orders to call her at two o'clock.

She had the satisfaction to find her humble friend in a very decent and genteel apartment, habited in a grey silk night-gown. Whilst she was drinking a dish of chocolate, her guardian entered the room. 'Your very humble servant Miss Wellers,' said he, 'who would have thought to have met you here?' Then turning to Brett, 'I have been at Sir Hans Sloan's, to consult him about a humour I am apt to have in my eyes every spring; and I would not come so near without calling to enquire after your health, and how you liked your new lodgings.'

‘ I am very much obliged to you, Sir,’ answered she, ‘ I am sensible I am more indebted to your goodness than my desert, for this favour; but I must say before your face, as I have often done behind your back, you are one of the best natured gentlemen breathing.’

She would, in all probability, have continued in this complimentary strain much longer, if Miss Wellers had not put a stop to it, by enquiring after the banker’s wife and daughters. He coolly replied, they were well; and then changed the conversation to other topics. When, on a sudden, he recollected he had a letter to write, and demanded of Brett, if she could help him to pen, ink and paper? She answered, if he would please to follow her into a closet out of that room, she could furnish him with those things. On which they both went out a minute, and Brett returned alone.

She was no sooner seated, than she began a discourse concerning her late master, and

and bestowed high encomiums on his unbounded generosity, especially where he took a fancy, saying to her visitant, 'Lass-a-day, madam! what pity 'tis he is so unequally yoked, for his wife is of a very different disposition. Ah, poor gentleman! he is to be pitied on more accounts than one.'

'I am sorry, said Miss Wellers, he should have any occasion for your pity: I can't say I perceive any. No doubt he liked his wife, or he had not made her so; and whatever particularities she may appear to others to have, he does not see with their eyes.'

'Take my word for it, madam,' answered Brett, 'there is no creature so quick-sighted as a husband; and a man must be blind indeed, if he could not see the ridiculous behaviour of Mrs. Searls: but what most excites my compassion, is, that, to my certain knowlege, he is distractedly in love with a young lady, whom he cannot pretend to in what is

‘ called a legal way. To be sure, the laws
‘ of England are so strict as to allow a
‘ man but one wife at a time, otherwise
‘ he would not endure what he does; for I
‘ have heard him often declare, if he was
‘ single, and *king* of both the Indies, he
‘ would have a certain young lady of my
‘ acquaintance, for his queen.’

Miss Wellers did not relish this conversation, and plainly told Brett, it savour’d too much of libertinism to be agreeable to her, adding, ‘ What is all this to me?’

It being now past two, and the chariot not arrived, Brett invited the young lady to sit down to a fowl and sausages. She desired to be excused; saying, she had engaged to be back by dinner, and was in expectation of being called every moment: and expressed some uneasiness at Mrs. Martin’s delay. She desired Brett to send the maid of the house, to tell her she waited for her. Brett answered, ’twas all in good time; and kept on talking ’till the clock struck four.

No

No chariot appearing, Miss Wellers again intreated her to send the maid to hasten Mrs. Martin, telling her she was to be found at Mr. L—'s, in China-walk. Upon which, Brett went out to deliver the message.

The maid returned, with Mrs. Martin's duty; and as her lady had given her leave to spend the day at Chelsea, the chariot was gone home, but would return to fetch them in the evening.

This intelligence made her a little easier; and she accepted the offer of a piece of cold tongue and a French roll. Yet she could not help wondering Mrs. Goodall should not tell her, she did not expect her to dinner. She began to conceive a dislike to the person she was with, who, she now feared, was a little too intimate with her guardian; and waited with impatience the return of the chariot, being determined, when she was released from this visit, never to repeat it.

About six o'clock, Mr. Searls again came in, to the no small surprize of Miss Wellers. He seated himself near her, and entered into a very free conversation, in which he was seconded by Brett. His actions being no less alarming than his words, raised her indignation to that height, that she hit him a box on the ear, and attempted to get out of the room; but finding the door fastened, she burst into tears, and called out, 'Where can Mrs. Martin be? why am I detained here? what can Mrs. Goodall mean by not sending for me?'

'Pray, madam, don't be so childish,' (answered Brett) 'what should you want Mrs. Martin for? am not I as capable of taking care of you?—But to ease you upon that score, I can tell you, she has been gone from Chelsea ever since two o'clock.' 'Gone!' cry'd the young lady, 'what do you mean? did not you tell me she staid all day?' Yes I did,' replied Brett, 'because I saw you would not be pacified without hearing of her; and now I suppose

‘ pose she is talking you over, with that
 ‘ frampled old lady, her mistress nay,
 ‘ *yours*, I might have said, for I know no
 ‘ difference between you, except that she
 ‘ has the advantage of wages and vails,
 ‘ whilst you have only the run of the kit-
 ‘ chen.’

This insolent speech so terrified and
 amazed Miss Wellers, that she could make
 no reply but by sighs and tears. Her guar-
 dian endeavoured to pacify her, by an odi-
 ous fondness. ‘ Pray, Miss Lucy,’ said he,
 ‘ don’t take on so, because I have removed
 ‘ you from a state of dependance. I in-
 ‘ tend to make your fortune, child, if
 ‘ you will but be grateful. Come, my
 ‘ dear, don’t cry and vex so; if you will
 ‘ accept my love, I will take you a house
 ‘ in this, or any of the neighbouring vil-
 ‘ lages, or in town, if you chuse it. And
 ‘ I will settle two hundred pounds per an-
 ‘ num upon you for life. Do but look kind-
 ‘ ly upon me. I have had a liking to you
 ‘ ever since I took you from school, or else
 ‘ I should not have entertained you so

‘ handsomely at my house. Come, come,
‘ dry up your tears, my dear girl ! you may
‘ be certain I would not have taken you
‘ from Mrs. Goodall, if I did not intend
‘ to provide handsomely for you. I am
‘ willing to do what I have told you, and
‘ when my wife dies, I will marry you ;
‘ for I solemnly declare, I had rather be
‘ possessed of this white hand,’ (taking her
hand, which she withdrew, with a look of
the utmost scorn) ‘ than of the ten thou-
‘ sand pound prize in the next lottery ;
‘ and if I should have the luck to get that
‘ prize, I would bestow every farthing of
‘ it upon my dear Lucy.’

‘ You infamous wretch,’ answered Miss
Wellers, ‘ how dare you make such impu-
‘ dent proposals to me ?’

‘ Come, Miss Lucy,’ (replied the guar-
dian, in a fawning tone) ‘ don’t put your-
‘ self in a passion.’

‘ Send me home to my dear Mrs. Good-
‘ all,’ answered his charge, ‘ or I will ex-
‘ pose you to the world.’

‘ Come,’

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‘Come,’ said he, ‘be easy, and you shall go to her; perhaps you may like to stay a little while with her; and I will grant you the sum I have mentioned yearly, if you will only condescend, now-and-then, to favour me with your company at this house. Brett, I know, is honest, and can keep a secret.’

‘That I can and will,’ (replied his infamous associate). ‘I am ready to serve the lady to the utmost of my power, or I should not have taken such pains about her.’

male agent

Miss Wellers, (casting a look of contempt on her) said, ‘You once told me, there was no trusting to appearances, and you have fatally convinced me that truth can issue from your mouth; for no one can be more deceived than I have been by a specious appearance of virtue in you, and that wretch your accomplice.’

‘I don’t know what you mean,’ (retorted Brett) ‘by your insinuations, and calling people names; for my part, I wonder

‘ at Mr. Searls’s patience; ’tis a sign he
‘ loves you more than you deserve, or he
‘ would not take such language from one
‘ who is so much in his power.’

‘ Hold!—hold your tongue,’ (cry’d
Searls) ‘ perhaps Miss Lucy may think
‘ better of it. I fancy, my dear,’ (address-
ing his fair ward) ‘ I have spoken too late.
‘ ’Tis likely your affections are engaged
‘ elsewhere. I have often thought there
‘ was a sneaking kindness between you and
‘ my clerk Heckford: nay, I am sure
‘ there is on his side; and if that be the
‘ case, I should not be against your marry-
‘ ing him, provided you will bestow some
‘ favours upon me. I repeat it, the two
‘ hundred pounds a year shall be settled
‘ upon you for life. What say you to
‘ that, my sweet dear?’

‘ This insolence is not to be borne!’ re-
turned the young lady, with a glance of
disdain. ‘ If you continue to talk in this
‘ manner, I’ll alarm the house.—Bless me!
‘ what must Mrs. Goodall think of my
‘ staying

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‘staying here? Send me home, and I’ll
‘forgive all you have uttered, but never
‘let me see your face or this infamous wo-
‘man’s any more.’

‘Infamous woman!’ (repeated Brett)
‘no more infamous than yourself, I’d have
‘you to know! though I have more means
‘and less pride. I am not maintained by
‘charity, I can tell you.’

‘That I dare say you are not;’ (answered
Miss Wellers) ‘but I care not to whom
‘you are obliged for the change I perceive
‘in your condition, provided you use no
‘sinister means to make one in mine. But
‘when is Mrs. Goodall’s chariot to come?’

‘Not to-night, I can assure you;’ said
Brett, ‘so you may make yourself easy
‘about that.’

‘Not to-night!’ (returned the young
lady, the tears streaming from her eyes)
‘what will become of me?’

‘Why,

‘Why, madam,’ answered Brett, ‘you must stay here; and if you chuse to go to bed, I have a very commodious one in the next room, at your service.’

‘No,’ replied Miss Wellers, ‘I will not accept your offer; nor will I sleep till I hear from my dear Mrs. Goodall.’

‘Here’s a rout, indeed!’ (return’d the other) ‘about that old woman! What good can she do you?—perhaps let you live a dependant on her charity till she dies, and then leave you to the wide world, without a fixpenny-piece in your pocket. How would you then rejoice at such an offer as Mr. Searls now makes? but such don’t come every day.’

Miss Wellers’s spirits were in too great an agitation to permit her to reply in the manner she would have done, and she continued in silent grief, till pressed by Brett to retire into the other room to rest; she then declared, she would not stir from her chair.

Brett

Brett answered, ' Nay, madam, if you
' chuse to stay with Mr. Searls, I have
' no objection to leaving you with him 'till
' morning; but must beg to be excused
' from sitting up any longer, on account
' of my health; for I cannot bear late hours.
' I wish you a good night, madam. Sir,
' your servant, I don't doubt but you will
' entertain the lady.'

She was turning into the next room,
when Miss Wellers, in an agony not to
be described, caught hold of her gown,
and half frantic, cried, ' Pray, dear, good,
' Mrs. Brett, don't leave me, for heaven's
' sake! stay, if you have not a mind to
' urge me to some desperate action.' The
looks that accompanied these words were
so wild and disordered, that Searls, in a real
fright, desired Brett not to leave the room.

' Miss Lucy,' said he, ' pray be paci-
' fied; you shall come to no harm: to
' humour you, Mrs. Brett will be so kind
' to destroy her own repose. Come, don't
' cry.

‘cry.—I’ll hire a coach in the morning,
‘and carry you to Hampton Court; you
‘never saw that palace, and Brett will give
‘us her company. I love you too well to
‘vex you: we will go to Hampton Court.’

‘No, let me go back to Mrs. Goodall, I
‘beseech you; and though you have given
‘me the most poignant uneasiness I was
‘ever sensible of, I will not expose you,
‘by relating what has passed. But if you
‘will not comply with this request, you
‘may be certain I shall not conceal your
‘wicked attempts.’

‘Now, Miss Lucy,’ answered the banker,
‘don’t be in a passion, but hear what
‘I have to say. As to what you talk of,
‘child, of exposing me, I can tell you, I
‘am provided against the worst you can
‘say; and if you should pretend to do
‘such a silly thing ’tis in my power to
‘let Mrs. Goodall know you contrived
‘this visit, on purpose to carry on an in-
‘trigue with a fellow; suppose I should
‘say Heckford, do you think I could not
‘produce

‘ produce letters, to strengthen my report?
 ‘ And whose word do you think will be
 ‘ taken in such an affair? Therefore you
 ‘ must agree to the little journey I propose;
 ‘ and, after that, we will think of your re-
 ‘ turning to Mrs. Goodall.’

The young lady, amazed at the villai-
 nous insinuation concerning his clerk, and
 not doubting but he was capable of putting
 this detestable scheme in execution, which
 might destroy her reputation, not only with
 Mrs. Goodall, but the world in general,
 after a pause, told him, she would consent
 to the journey, if she might be allowed to
 pass the remainder of the night by herself.
 To this Brett objected, that she had but
 two rooms, and she did not think it decent
 to be left with Mr. Searls.

Miss Wellers replied, ‘ You have a
 ‘ closet; and if you would let me have a
 ‘ candle, I shall be thankful to sit there.’

This request, after many debates, was
 granted, and she was locked into the closet,
 where

where we will leave her a while, and give the reader some anecdotes relating to her guardian's accomplice.

C H A P. IX.

The great advantages attending an alliance with a place-man, set forth in the history of Mrs. Brett.

MRS. Brett was the daughter of an excise-man, who had nothing but his salary to subsist on. Her mother died whilst she was in her infancy, and her father having no other child, gave her something of an education, and maintained her in a fashion far above her birth and expectations, in hopes her person, which was very agreeable, so ornamented, might procure her an establishment in the world, either by marriage, or becoming a mistress to some man of condition; for, provided she did but make an appearance in life, he did not concern himself by what method.

Being a natural child, and inheriting the loose principles of his parents, he did not think

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think it essential to his daughter's preferment to cultivate a contrary disposition in her. He recommended to her a behaviour that was likely to ensnare some young heir, who might be induced to marry her, or, at least, to make her a handsome settlement for life, on terms she was not to be so squeamish to refuse. For this purpose she was dressed, and great pains was taken to adorn her person, which for a long time was either disregarded, or not taken notice of in the way he wished. There were, 'tis true, several men of a rank suitable to her extraction, who admired her, but were deterr'd from making any overtures of marriage to a person, whose extravagant appearance so ill suited her condition. And she remained unsolicited; 'till, by her father's and her own profuseness, he had contracted debts, which every day threatned him with imprisonment.

He chanced, at this juncture, to be stationed in a town, near which Mr. Searls had a country house. The Banker, ever sensible to the charms of a fine woman, having

ing seen the excise-man's daughter, became enamoured, and fought her father's acquaintance. He soon perceived the difficulties Mr. Brett laboured under, and offered to lay down any sum to extricate him out of his distress, and to procure him a higher post, at the expence of his daughter's honour.

The wicked parent consented; and, to avoid a temporary disgrace to himself, fixed a perpetual *one* on his child. In short, her virtue paid the price of his release; and though she despised her gallant, her ambition obliged her to counterfeit a tenderness she was an utter stranger to, in order to wheedle him out of a settlement, which might enable her to be above the censure of her equals, and to look unabashed in the presence of her superiors: Her father having taught her, that wealth and grandeur once attained, no matter by what means, was sure to be attended and caressed by the world, and that such a fence would ever rebate the force of scandalous arrows.

Though

Though Mr. Searls frequently indulged himself in the gratifications of his criminal inclinations, he was yet in too much awe of his wife, not to conceal the liberties he took. He, therefore, hastened to remove Mr. Brett and his daughter, out of the neighbourhood; and a supervisor's place, which he had procured for the former, was a plausible pretence. The wretched father did not long enjoy the reward of his iniquitous proceeding, being taken off, by a fit of an apoplexy, before the year expired.

The banker continued to provide for his daughter some years after, 'till growing tired of her, he began to decline in his visits; and she, not being able to bring him to any stipulated agreement for her maintenance, began to fear being left destitute; when he told her, if she would condescend to aid him with her service in his future amours, he would not withdraw the allowance he had hitherto afforded her: and, at the same time, gave her liberty to engage
in

in any affair of that nature, by which she might encrease her income.

She, finding there was no possibility of obtaining any thing from him, without complying with his proposal, agreed to it. And, after having been subservient to his pleasures, by procuring him several young women of her acquaintance, he ordered her to get herself recommended to his wife's service, about the time that he took Miss Wellers from school, in order to introduce her to that young lady's acquaintance; and, by that means, to make her instrumental to the completion of the design he had formed against the virtue of his fair ward; for which service he had promised her a considerable quantity.

The reader is now acquainted with the source from whence all that wretched woman's pretended kindness for Miss Wellers proceeded. The lodgings at Chelsea were hired by the banker, in order to carry on his detested scheme. How far they answered that end, will be shewn in the ensuing chapter.

C H A P.

CHAP. X.

Containing a scheme of Miss Wellers's.

WE will now return to the distressed young lady, in the closet, who was no sooner alone, than reflections on the danger to which she saw herself exposed threw her into an agony, easier to be imagined than described. Having given vent to her grief, by tears and lamentations, she fell on her knees, and fervently implored the protection of heaven.

She found herself much relieved by this act, and began to cast about in her mind, by what means she could extricate herself out of her present afflicting situation: when revolving various schemes, she fix'd upon one, and taking out her pocket-book, she, with a pencil, in the first leaf, wrote these words: ' If this should fall into the hands
' of any good christian, let him convey it
' to the house of Mrs. Goodall, in Albe-
' marle-street.'

In the next leaf, she wrote a few lines in the French language, signifying to that lady, that she was in her guardian's hands, and in imminent danger of being forced from her, and of a misfortune still more grievous, which she could not commit to paper, if she did not endeavour to rescue her very speedily.

This she put carefully into her pocket, omitting the names of herself and guardian, knowing Mrs. Goodall, was too well acquainted with her hand-writing to need them.

She now fell into a doze, and slept some hours, but waking in a terror natural to a mind so agitated, screamed. Her watchful guardian opened the door, and being apprehensive she might make some desperate attempt to free herself from his power, would not permit it to be shut again.

In the morning, the coach arrived, and Miss Wellers suffered herself to be put into it.

it. They proceeded, in silence, to Hampton-Court, and alighted at the TOY.

The young lady could not be prevailed on to take any refreshment ; and, though it was not above nine o'clock, they went to the Palace, the sight of which would have afforded Miss Wellers great entertainment, had not her mind been in too much perplexity to receive any. Coming out of the gallery, which contains the Cartoons, she observed some company entering, and designedly dropt her pocket-book.

From the palace they returned to the Toy, where Mr. Searls had ordered tea and coffee. Miss Wellers refused to sit at the table, but, taking a roll in her hand, retired to a window ; rather to avoid conversation, than for the sake of the view. However, as she could not help casting her eyes out of it, she perceived a young gentleman passing by the house several times, regarding her very attentively. She followed him with her eye, till she saw him hold up her pocket-book, giving her

a signal that he would obey her commands, at least, so she interpreted the motion he made to her. She observed, he took oars at the stairs, within view of that window, and concluded he was going to town.

The pleasing hope that her innocent scheme would succeed, a little revived her; and she appeared more chearful, and not desirous of removing from the place she was in. She consented to partake of an elegant dinner that her guardian had prepared; and though his behaviour was by much too free, she endured it, in hopes of a speedy deliverance.

Dinner ended, the banker proposed to go on to Windsor; but his ward fearing she should not be found if she left the place, expressed a desire of staying where she was; alledging the little rest she had had the preceding night, as an excuse against a farther journey. The guardian, well satisfied to find her so easy, did not press their departure, but bespoke a supper to be ready by nine.

In

In the interval, he carried his company to take a view of Bushy-park. The hours seemed very tedious to his charge, who began, as it grew towards night, to fear she had indulged false hopes. She relapsed into her former uneasiness when supper was brought in, and was with difficulty persuaded to sit down.

They had not been long seated, when they were alarmed by the abrupt entrance of a lady and two stout men, whom Mr. Searls soon recognized for Mrs. Goodall, her steward and butler. In the utmost confusion he attempted to rise, and in his flutter overturned a basin of scalding hot fish sauce, into Brett's lap, great part of which lighting upon her hands, obliged her to rise likewise. He then began to speak,

‘Madam,’ said he, directing his discourse to Mrs. Goodall, ‘I am surprized!’
 ‘I believe you are!’ interrupted that lady, (casting a look of indignation upon him)
 ‘I came hither with that intent: come, my
 F 2 ‘dear,’

‘ dear,’ said she to Miss Wellers, (who had been in tears, and unable to utter a syllable, from the moment she saw her) ‘ let me conduct you out of this company.’

So saying, she led her into another room, not deigning to hear the banker’s excuses, whilst he and his procurefs remained in the greatest consternation, without offering to speak a single word. As soon as he could regain the use of his tongue, he bid his coachman put to, and drive him directly to London, without stopping.

But it so happened, that the fellow was obliged to disobey him, and to halt, by the command of a highwayman, to whom Mr. Searls surrendered his watch, rings and money, to the amount of a considerable sum; which he intended to bestow on the fair thief that had deprived him of his heart. To add to his vexation, the coachman driving carelessly, overturned his fare into the deep ditch that conveys water from the Thames to the Chelsea water-works; by which accident they were not
only

LUCY WELLERS. FOR

only well drenched, but by the glasses breaking in the fall, the banker received a long cut across his forehead; which he has since affirmed was given him by a highwayman with whom he encountered.

Leaving him and his vile accomplice in this uncomfortable situation, let us take a view of the ladies they left behind them. When the younger was a little recovered from her surprize, and Mrs. Goodall had signify'd her intentions of not returning to town till the morning, she acquainted that lady with all that had passed since Thursday morning.

This recital occasioned Mrs. Goodall to break out into invectives against Mr. Searls, and to make many pious remarks on the goodness of that over-ruling providence which ever protects defenceless innocence.

Her young friend asked if she was not surprized at Mrs. Martin's returning alone? She replied, 'The message you sent by her satisfied me upon that head.'

‘ I sent no message!’ answered Miss Wellers, ‘ nor did I see Mrs. Martin after she set me down at that ill woman’s lodgings.’

‘ I did not hear that you did,’ (returned the lady) ‘ but she told me you had not been an hour with Mrs. Brett, before you sent to her, to tell her she might return, and inform me that you found Mrs. Brett extremely ill, and that she intreated you not to leave her in extremity; and you hoped I would excuse your staying with her that night, and would inform me in the morning at what time to send for you. The writing in your pocket-book was a most providential thought; for this message had lulled me into such a security, that I should not have been amazed if you had stayed at Chelsea till now. About the time I might expect to hear from you, I was informed a gentleman desired to speak with me; I ordered him to be shewn up, and he entering with a respectful bow, delivered
the

‘ the pocket-book. Having read your
 ‘ confused scrawl, I demanded of him, by
 ‘ what means it came into his hands? He
 ‘ satisfied me in that particular, and con-
 ‘ jured me to lose no time ; for as he had
 ‘ read the contents, he imagined the young
 ‘ lady was in danger of being forced some-
 ‘ where against her inclination. I returned
 ‘ him thanks, and desired he would call
 ‘ again, as I was in too much confusion to
 ‘ return his civility in a proper manner.
 ‘ But, my dear, I am thinking we ought to
 ‘ put you entirely out of the power of that
 ‘ wretch your guardian, by chusing one
 ‘ more proper for the trust.’

‘ Dear madam,’ (answered Miss Wellers)
 ‘ will you be so kind to take that trouble
 ‘ upon you?’

‘ Yes, that I will with all my heart ;’
 (returned the lady) ‘ and the sooner it is
 ‘ done the better ; but as it must be a mat-
 ‘ ter of form, I will consult my lawyer,
 ‘ if I have time after my journey to mor-
 ‘ row. But I think we ought now to re-
 ‘ tire to our repose.’

Reader, indulge your humour, and be even with the ladies, but when you awake turn to

C H A P. XI.

In which is contained some account of a character, that for many reasons we hope is not uncommon.

MRS. Goodall and Miss Wellers arrived in town on the Saturday noon, and the elder lady was so impatient to put the other out of the power of her treacherous guardian, before he could form any fresh schemes, that, notwithstanding her journey had somewhat fatigued her, she went in the afternoon to the house of Mr. Samber, a counsellor, renowned for his probity and learning.

On her entrance, she saw a glimpse of the same gentleman that brought her the pocket-book ; which occasioned her, (when she had settled the affair she came to consult upon) to ask Mr. Samber, if that gentleman

tleman was any relation of his? The counsellor replied, there was no affinity between them, but what proceeded from friendship. ‘Charles Godfrey,’ (continued he) ‘is a worthy young fellow, and the son of a gentleman who was very dear to me. Being left young with but a slender fortune, I took upon me the care of his education; and by the progress he has made in learning, and the diligence with which he applies to the duties of his profession, I am amply rewarded for my trouble. I removed him, after a convenient stay at the university, to the Temple; and he has lately been called to the bar, where I flatter myself he will one day make no inconsiderable figure.’

‘He has a very modest sensible appearance,’ (said the lady) ‘and I think his person one of the most compleat I ever beheld.’

‘I assure you, madam,’ (answered Mr. Samber) ‘his mind is no less amiable. His wit, which is one of his most shining endowments, is tempered by a judgment,’

penetrating, clear, and strong, which prevents its breaking out either into satire or levity, and renders him an entertaining as well as inoffensive companion.

‘The character you give this young gentleman,’ (replied Mrs. Goodall) ‘reflects great honour on your own judgment; and I do not question but his conduct will afford you a sufficient recompence for the pains you have taken in the cultivation of his.’

This lady thinking it time to depart, returned home, full of the pleasing account she had heard of Mr. Godfrey, which she communicated to her young companion.

The banker was informed of Miss Wellers’s proceedings by Mrs. Goodall’s steward, not thinking it proper to honour him with an interview upon the occasion; not that she acquainted Mr. Stedman, or any other person, with the motives that induced Miss Wellers to take this step, as she hoped

hoped the ill success of his late design, would deter him from attempting any of the like nature, and was not willing to expose his behaviour in this affair, lest it should too nearly affect his wife. So cautious was this humane lady of giving pain to another!

The day after, when the ladies returned from church, they found the gentleman that had been instrumental in the recovery of Miss Wellers, waiting their arrival.

Mrs. Goodall expressed great pleasure at seeing him; and informed Miss Wellers that that gentleman was Mr. Godfrey, to whom she was so much obliged. He received their thanks in a modest manner, congratulated Mrs. Goodall on the recovery of the young lady, as he did Miss Wellers on her escape.

His deportment confirming Mrs. Goodall in the opinion she had entertained of him from Mr. Samber's account, she pressed him to stay dinner, but he excused himself, saying he was expected at home;

but, with her leave, he would do himself the honour of waiting upon her again. Upon which, she gave him an invitation to her house either in town or in country, and begg'd she might see him often. She then left the room, desiring him to stay till she returned.

During her absence, he told Miss Wellers, he should esteem Friday as the happiest day he had known; since the adventures of that day had given birth to an acquaintance with ladies of such distinguished merit. He then begg'd he might be favoured with her name.

She replied, 'The obligations I am under to you, Sir, are of such a nature as leave me no room to refuse your request, if I had, as I really have no reason, to conceal the name of Wellers.'

'I presume, madam,' (said he) 'you are niece to Mrs. Goodall?'

'No, Sir,' (answered she, with a sigh) 'I am not so happy as to be any way related

‘ related to that lady ; and the favours I
‘ receive from her are entirely the result
‘ of her beneficent disposition.’

Mrs. Goodall, now entering the room, addressed Mr. Godfrey, ‘ As I am indebted to you, Sir,’ (said she) ‘ for the recovery of this valuable jewel,’ (pointing to Miss Wellers) ‘ do me the favour to wear this trifling one.’

She then presented him with a handsome diamond ring, which he accepted with a respectful bow, and a look that testified plainer than words could express, how agreeable the present was to him.

After he was gone, both the ladies expressed their approbation of his behaviour ; and Miss Wellers returned her new guardian thanks for the favours she had bestowed on her deliverer, as it was such a kind proof of the affection with which she honoured her.

The many encomiums Mrs. Goodall bestowed on Mr. Godfrey, joined to her own

own observation of him, made an impression on the mind of this young lady very much in his favour; and, without any indications of the passion of love, she conceived an esteem for his merit. The little conversation he had had with her, inspired him with the like sentiments in regard to her.

He went to Mrs. Goodall's in the following week, and passed a day no less to his own satisfaction than to that of the two ladies. In the second interview, he discovered such a fund of sense, reason, and goodness, in Miss Wellers, that he came away entirely captivated by the beauties of her mind; which represented those of her person in a much stronger light than they would otherwise have appeared to him; who made little account of exterior charms, unless so accompanied. And frequently, when he has been admiring the beautiful outside of a fine lady, would join with the wolf in the fable, in this exclamation, 'What pity so fine a head should be without brains!' But his acquaintance with
this

this young lady convinced him, that the rules of necessity do not require that a fine head should be always a *carved* one.

As he now began to feel the symptoms of a passion he had hitherto been a stranger to, he used his utmost efforts to keep it under proper regulations; for he neither wished or endeavoured to extinguish it. He was conscious his circumstances were at present too contracted to permit him to make an offer according to the dictates of his heart; but he was not without hopes, by diligence and assiduity in his profession, to improve them into a competency, which his reason assured him would afford him happiness, with a wife of Miss Wellers's disposition. He had been informed how little she was indebted to fortune; but that information only served to excite his desire of improving his own, in order to make up that deficiency.

He determined, for the present, to conceal the soft sentiments of his heart, and, under the veil of friendship, to cultivate
her

her acquaintance; by which he hoped to gain her esteem, and pave the way for the introduction of a real passion. He adhered so strictly to this resolution, that though he had frequent interviews with the lady, every one of which tended to encrease his fondness for her, no word escaped him, which could give her the least intimation of what passed in his heart. 'Tis true, he took all imaginable pains to appear agreeable to her, and to assure her she was thoroughly so to him: but all his words and actions seemed to proceed rather from the dictates of a disinterested friendship than from a heart inspired by love.

Miss Wellers received his professions of esteem, and modestly returned them with that ease peculiar to a heart incapable of guile.

C H A P. XII.

The scene changes to the country.

MR. Godfrey and MISS Wellers continued their friendly commerce, till the month of May, the usual season for rural enjoyments, invited Mrs. Goodall into the country. As this lady had a contemplative turn of mind, she found an exquisite entertainment in observing the various beauties with which the bounteous Author of nature has lavishly adorned that part of the year: every enamelled meadow, verdant lawn, and bespangled hedge, excited her admiration; and the diversity she observed in the variegated hues of the flowery creation, joined with the melody of the tuneful inhabitants of the grove, never failed to raise in her soul such grateful sensations, as caused her frequently to accompany the winged choristers, in songs of praise and thanksgiving to that beneficent Being who has so beautifully adorned
ed

ed the lilly, ' that even Solomon in all
' his glory was not arrayed like one of
' these ;' and who, in like manner, extends
his favour and protection to the meanest of
the feathered kind.

The various scenes the country exhibit-
ed, gave great occasion for agreeable specu-
lations ; from which she had the discern-
ment to draw inferences no less improving
than entertaining ; and to recommend such
to the observation of her young compani-
on, who had a capacity fit to receive, and
improve by, such lessons.

We will now, therefore, attend Mrs.
Goodall to her seat in one of the northern
counties ; whither she invited Mr. God-
frey to follow her, when his business would
permit him to make such an excursion.

Her house was an antique building, situ-
ated on a delightful eminence, in the midst
of a park. On one side was a pleasant
grove, cut into avenues, which were ter-
minated by arbours. By the side of this
grove,

grove, ran a serpentine river, formed by nature, and at Mr. Goodall's expence made navigable for the convenience of transporting coals into an inland country.

The inside of this venerable habitation was furnished in an elegant, though not a modern taste: the portraits of Mr. Goodall's and her own ancestors, were preserved with the utmost care; those of her husband, herself and son, were placed in her dressing-room.

The village in which this mansion was situated, was so compact, that most of the houses encircled a green, of no large circumference; in the midst of which stood the church, which was neatly ornamented, and had an organ given by Mrs. Goodall, who allowed a salary of twenty pounds a year, to a person that constantly attended it.

The parsonage house adjoined to the church; to which there was an avenue from Mrs. Goodall's park-gate. The rector

tor was near sixty years of age; a man of great erudition, profound learning, and sanctity of manners; add to these, a politeness he had acquired in his youth, that rendered his company coveted and esteemed by every person of good sense and breeding in the neighbourhood. His wife was equally beloved for her ingenuity and affable behaviour. They had a niece who lived with them, and to whom they behaved with the same indulgent fondness that she could have experienced from the tenderest of parents; and had the satisfaction to receive a suitable return of obedience and affection from her.

It is to be supposed a lady of Mrs. Goodall's disposition must be desirous of cultivating an intimacy with such a family; and indeed, there had been always an uninterrupted harmony between them.

Mrs. Goodall had such an opinion of Dr. Wright's judgment, that she often consulted with him on emergent occasions;

and

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and never had the least cause to repent the confidence she reposed in his integrity.

No sooner had the village notice of her arrival, by the clamour of the bells, than the doctor waited on her, to welcome her return. He was followed by her tenants and humble retainers, who with no less good will, though in a much less eloquent manner, expressed their joy at the sight of the lady of the manour. She returned their civilities as they deserved; and revived her accustomed hospitality.

Miss Burton, the doctor's niece, and Miss Wellers, contracted an intimacy, which the parity of their years and dispositions soon ripened into friendship. They amused themselves in pieces of needlework, and reading together such authors as the doctor and Mrs. Goodall recommended to their perusal.

Miss Wellers thought herself very happy in her present situation, and accounted Miss Burton's acquaintance an additional felicity.

city. She often remarked a pensiveness in this friend; and that sometimes she appeared under a dejection, which the cheerfulness and vivacity of her wit at others, plainly proved was not natural to her. From this observation she entertained a suspicion that Miss Burton laboured under some uneasiness of mind; and as it is the part of a *real* friend to endeavour to lessen any such, she determined to enquire into the cause, in order, if it lay in her power, to remove the effect.

In consequence of this resolution, one evening, as they were sitting together in the grove, she addressed Miss Burton in these words:

‘ I hope, my dear Nancy, you will pardon
 ‘ a curiosity that I assure you proceeds
 ‘ from motives of the sincerest affection.
 ‘ I have, for some days, remarked a dejection
 ‘ in your countenance that has given
 ‘ me great pain; and as I would do any
 ‘ thing to remove it, suffer me to enquire
 ‘ into the occasion. You may depend
 ‘ upon my secrecy, if it is of such a nature
 ‘ as to require it. And if I can be of

no

‘ no other service to you, I should be glad
‘ to lighten your grief, by participation.’

The other replied, with tears in her eyes,
‘ I have too often experienced your friendly
‘ regard, to refuse gratifying your curiosi-
‘ ty ; but, as that cannot be done without
‘ entering into a tedious detail of various
‘ circumstances, I fear your patience will
‘ be exhausted before I conclude my story.’

Miss Wellers having desired her to make
no further apology, and promised to be
very attentive, Miss Burton related what
the reader may find, in the second book, if
he pleases.

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THE
HISTORY
OF
LUCY WELLERS.

BOOK II.

CHAP. I.

A performance of the promise made in the
conclusion of the first book.

MISS Burton began her recital in
the following manner.

‘ Since you so kindly interest yourself
‘ in my concerns, I will obey your com-
‘ mands; and that you may the bet-
Vol. I. G ter

‘ ter understand the cause of that uneasiness which I would fain conceal, I will
‘ begin with my birth, which happened
‘ twenty-two years ago.

‘ My father, who was brother to my
‘ good aunt Wright, was in orders; and
‘ had preferment to the amount of four
‘ hundred pounds a year. My mother had
‘ two thousand pounds to her fortune,
‘ which at the time she married was settled
‘ upon her, and her heirs. She had no
‘ child in the first year after her marriage;
‘ and the unlucky South-sea year succeeding,
‘ she was persuaded to relinquish her
‘ settlement, and put the money into the
‘ South-sea, in hopes, like many infatuated
‘ people, of having the principal prodigiously
‘ encreased; the consequence of
‘ which was, the loss of the whole sum.

‘ In the year following, I had a brother
‘ born, who is now accompanying a young
‘ nobleman in his travels.—Some time
‘ after, I came into the world.—We were
‘ both carested by our parents, with great
‘ indul-

' indulgence. They spared no expence in
 ' our education. My father was a man of
 ' more wit than œconomy, and my mo-
 ' ther's temper did not qualify her to
 ' rectify mistakes of that sort; for having
 ' been accustomed to lead a very gay, ex-
 ' pensive life, whilst single, she continu-
 ' ed to do the same after she had a family :
 ' and jaunts to town yearly, where she
 ' might partake of public diversions, were
 ' not consistent with their income; espe-
 ' cially as my father was likewise fond of
 ' a great deal of company, and by his
 ' facetious wit, had rendered himself agree-
 ' able to many families of great distinction,
 ' who courted his acquaintance on account
 ' of the entertainment his conversation af-
 ' forded them, but never thought of mak-
 ' ing him any return for the expence they
 ' put him to. His excessive fondness for
 ' my mother, blinded him to her faults,
 ' and his own indolent disposition pre-
 ' vented him from examining into the state
 ' of his affairs, and hindered him from
 ' perceiving the perplexity in which his
 ' heedlessness had involved him.

‘ Matters were in this situation, when
‘ I was taken from the boarding-school,
‘ and introduced into the best compa-
‘ ny.—I had been at home two years, when
‘ my brother brought an university acquain-
‘ tance of his, to pass a month at our
‘ house. This gentleman, whose name
‘ was Willit, was the only child of a cler-
‘ gyman, who possessed a very pretty estate,
‘ besides his preferment, which was confi-
‘ derable : his temper was the very reverse
‘ of my father’s, being, perhaps, the most
‘ penurious man upon earth ; and though
‘ he pretended to love his son extremely,
‘ I have reason to think his affection for
‘ money was more prevalent.

‘ Mr. Willit had not been with us a fort-
‘ night, before he became very particular
‘ in his compliments to me ; and before he
‘ parted from our family, made a plain de-
‘ claration of love ; which, as I had con-
‘ ceived a very high opinion of his merit,
‘ from my brother’s recommendation, I
‘ will confess, gave me no displeasure ; on
‘ the

“the contrary, I received it in a manner
 “that shewed I had no aversion to his pro-
 “posal, though it did not amount to a di-
 “rect approbation of it.

“He left us; and in a few days after, I
 “received a letter from him, filled with
 “protestations of love and tenderness. My
 “brother, to whom he had imparted his
 “intentions, became his advocate; and my
 “parents being informed by my brother of
 “the affair, had no objection. However,
 “my father said, it was proper, before we
 “proceeded further, to procure old Mr.
 “Willit’s consent.

“About this time, a maiden sister of
 “my mother’s, and her senior, came to
 “reside at our house; which gave great
 “satisfaction to us all, as she had been so
 “offended with my mother for the step
 “she took in the fatal South-sea year, that
 “she had never taken any notice of her
 “from that time. Her reconciliation in-
 “spired them with hopes, that being in
 “the decline of life, and very fond of me,

‘ I should inherit her fortune; which she
‘ had managed with such œconomy as to
‘ encrease it to a much larger sum than my
‘ mother had lost.

‘ My aunt was soon acquainted with Mr.
‘ Willit’s pretensions, and highly approved
‘ them; frequently declaring, if it was a
‘ match, I should, at her death, have at
‘ least as good a fortune as my mother
‘ had.

‘ You may imagine how agreeable these
‘ declarations were to me! I took all possi-
‘ ble care to oblige her, and submitted to
‘ all her whims, (for she was a great hu-
‘ mourist,) thinking I could never be grate-
‘ ful enough for her kind intentions.

‘ My lover continued to prosecute me
‘ with ardent solicitations; and I began
‘ to cast off all reserve, and confessed my
‘ heart was inclined to favour him; but
‘ desired he would endeavour to gain his
‘ father’s consent.

‘ He

‘ He lamented his covetousness, and
‘ said, he feared that would blind him
‘ to the merit he thought fit to say I pos-
‘ sessed. Upon my pressing him to sound
‘ his inclinations, My dear Nancy, an-
‘ swered he I *have*, and am sorry to say, he
‘ is obstinately bent to oppose my desires;
‘ but since I have the happiness to be assur-
‘ ed you will not, I hope, in time, to bring
‘ him to a different way of thinking.

‘ I replied, I was concerned that Mr.
‘ Willit should be so averse; but since it
‘ was so, it would be better, in my opinion,
‘ to drop the affair; for the objections he
‘ made to me were not easily to be re-
‘ moved, and it would be more prudent
‘ in us to separate now; though I should
‘ ever retain a friendly regard for him.

‘ He seemed greatly confused; and in-
‘ treated me, if I had any regard for his
‘ peace of mind, not to mention a separa-
‘ tion, the very thought of which would
‘ destroy it for ever. He continued to

‘ say all that the most ardent love could
‘ dictate, to assure me of his constancy and
‘ sincerity, and to dissuade me from part-
‘ ing. He earnestly begg’d, however his
‘ father might behave, that I would per-
‘ mit him to continue a correspondence
‘ with me, till he should be in a capacity
‘ of marrying without his concurrence,
‘ which he hoped at last to obtain.

‘ He was, too importunate to be denied.
‘ My aunt appeared to like Mr. Willis
‘ extremely, and repeated before him the
‘ kind declaration she had so often made in
‘ my favour.

‘ I had the satisfaction to receive a letter
‘ from him soon after, in which he told
‘ me, he was not without hopes of gaining
‘ his father’s consent to our union, by the
‘ time he was capable of holding the pre-
‘ ferment designed for him. And hinted,
‘ that he feared this alteration in the old
‘ gentleman’s sentiments, proceeded from
‘ some intelligence he had received con-
‘ cerning my aunt.

‘ I did not concern myself from what
 ‘ motive so agreeable a change proceeded,
 ‘ tho’ had it been from a less mercenary
 ‘ one, it would have afforded me greater
 ‘ pleasure. However, as it was, I was de-
 ‘ lighted with it; and determined to use
 ‘ my utmost endeavours to regulate my
 ‘ conduct in such a manner, that he should
 ‘ have no reason to repent of his compli-
 ‘ ance.’

Here Miss Burton was interrupted by a servant, who came to tell the ladies, they were desired to walk in, to attend the arrival of some company. They obeyed the summons, having agreed to meet in the same place next day to finish Miss Burton’s story. Which, if the reader has any inclination to be acquainted with, he is desired to be in the grove adjoining to the park, to-morrow evening, between the hours of six and seven, where he may either doze or wander unmolested, if he should grow tired of listening to a true and impartial account of the proceedings of Joseph Willit, A. M.

C H A P. II.

Contains an odd account of an odd affair,
by an odd fellow.

ON the ladies entering the hall, they observed a coachman's whip, and saw two servants in a livery which Miss Burton said belonged to Jack Shooter, a country squire in the neighbourhood.

No sooner did they make their appearance in the parlour, than the squire made directly up to Miss Wellers, and, wiping his lips with the back of his hand, gave her a hearty smack, and welcomed her into *their* country.

She blushed at so unusual a salutation; which the squire remarking, said, (in a counter-tenour voice) 'Nay, if you don't like it, give it me again.'

It was with some difficulty she could extricate herself from his spurs, which had taken such hold of her flowered-muslin sack,

sack, that they were not to be removed, without making a considerable breach in it.

He made many awkward apologies for the accident; at the same time said, he wondered what made women wear such flimsy gear?

His sister who accompanied him, hoped Miss would excuse her brother's freedom, but it was his way.

'Nay, madam,' said he, seating himself by Miss Wellers, and clapping one hand on her knee, 'I hope no offence; you are welcome to be as free with me;' then starting up and running to the side-board, he took off a bumper, with 'Miss! here's to our better acquaintance: won't you pledge me, to show you are friends with me?'

She replied, 'I have not taken any thing amiss, Sir, but must desire to be excused proving it just now, in the manner you propose.'

Miss Shooter was very inquisitive after fashions, and what the ladies at London wore. Then eying Miss Wellers from head to foot, told her, she would be much obliged to her for a pattern of her cap.

At which Jack burst into a horse-laugh, observing, when women got together they always talked about dress and nonsense. Then directing his discourse to Mrs. Goodall, ‘ Pray, madam, did you hear any talk
‘ at London concerning a tax upon dogs ?’

‘ No really, Sir,’ answered the lady,
‘ though I cannot help thinking it would
‘ be no improper expedient, to rid the
‘ nation of many inconveniencies arising
‘ from the multitude of those animals
‘ with which it seems to be over-run. Not
‘ that I am an enemy to dogs in their proper places.’

‘ I love them in all places,’ returned Jack, ‘ there’s my bitch Damsel; I would
‘ not part with her for half my estate.’

Then

Then setting up a hunting note, he bawl'd
 Hey Damsel! Tipler! Rockwood! and
 immediately all his dogs made their ap-
 pearance in the parlour.

Mrs. Goodall, in a civil manner, inti-
 mated that their absence would be more
 agreeable to her than their presence; upon
 which Jack conducted them out. When
 he returned to the company, he found
 them talking over what had passed in the
 country since Mrs. Goodall last left it.
 Miss Shooter told her of a fine lady that
 had taken a house in a neighbouring
 market-town, who had alarmed the folks,
 by inviting all the gentry round the country
 to what she called a Rout, at her own house;
 that she and her brother had cards sent
 them, upon the occasion.

‘ And did you go?’ said Mrs. Goodall.
 ‘ Yes, yes, we went;’ answered the
 squire, ‘ but catch me at that sport again,
 ‘ if you can!’

‘ Why, did not you like your entertain-
 ment, Mr. Shooter?’

‘ Enter-

‘Entertainment!’ (repeated Jack) ‘there
‘ was no entertainment: the dei’l a bit
‘ was there to eat, but kickshaws of pre-
‘ served plums, and such like. I was in
‘ hope, as we were to stay the evening, they
‘ would have had a good loin of beef, or a
‘ ham, or somewhat handsome for supper.
‘ There was drink enough to tox one, that
‘ I must needs say, and I took off but two
‘ bottles of claret and one flask of cham-
‘ paign, to my share. And I grew giddy
‘ presently; so I went up stairs, purposing
‘ to lie down a bit; but when I came there,
‘ all the chambers were full of folks at
‘ cards. So I found my way down into
‘ the stable, and there I had a comfortable
‘ nap; and ’twou’d have been better for
‘ me if I had slept longer.’

‘ Why so, Sir?’

‘ Because, when I waked, they got me to
‘ whisk: and I may say I should under-
‘ stand that game, for I have played at it
‘ ever since I was a lad. But there was
two

‘ two fine fellows with pig-tail’d wigs
 ‘ and laced coats, that held the mayor
 ‘ and I, and they betted and betted, till
 ‘ I was persuaded to bett too, and so I
 ‘ lost to the tune of ten guineas. Then
 ‘ I went to another table, and sat down to
 ‘ a game at bragg, being loth to go away
 ‘ a loser, but I had the same bad luck,
 ‘ and bragg’d away five more. That I
 ‘ must needs say, did not mad me so much
 ‘ as what I lost at whisk; not that I value
 ‘ the money a hare’s foot, but ’twou’d vex
 ‘ one to lose it so to strangers. Besides, I
 ‘ did not think they play’d fair: for I
 ‘ heard one of them say to his partner,
 ‘ Why did you play such a card? and he
 ‘ answered, because Mr. Hoyle advised me
 ‘ to it. Upon this, Sir, said I, I don’t
 ‘ know which of the gentlemen is Mr.
 ‘ Hoyle, but I must say ’tis not handsome
 ‘ nor fair, for any gentleman that looks
 ‘ on, to say any thing about the game.
 ‘ He laughed in my face, and said, I
 ‘ might call Mr. Hoyle to account for it,
 ‘ if I pleased. So I will, said I, if I can
 ‘ find him; and I went round the room to
 ‘ enquire

‘ enquire him out. No body had the manners to tell me he was not there; but they sent me from one table to another, to look for him, till I happened to light of the lady of the house. She was somewhat civiler than the rest, though she could not help laughing, and told me, the gentlemen were merry, but they meant a book, that fine folks studied in. Now, that I thought a jeer; for these fops looked as if they had never studied any thing in their lives. Besides, I did not suppose any body read books to teach them to play cards. But when I came home, my man Joshua told me, that Mr. John the lady’s footman, had lent him a book about whisk; upon which I looked into it, but I could make neither head nor tail on’t.’

‘ Pray madam,’ said Mrs. Goodall to Miss Shooter, ‘ how did you like this rout?’

‘ Oh of all things!’ (answered the squire’s sister) ‘ I wish my brother wou’d have one.’

‘ No,

‘ No, no,’ (replied he, shrugging his shoulders) ‘ I know a trick worth two of that ; there’s Mrs. Figg, the mayoress, has had the upholsterers and carpenters pulling down beds, and putting her house to rights this fortnight, on purpose to have one ; but I’ll have no such doings at Topewell-hall, while I am master on’t.’

Dr. Wright now entering the room, was saluted by Jack with a cordial shake of the hand, and ‘ Well, parson, I think you have laid a stone at my door : When will you come and foul a plate with me?’

The Doctor answered, ‘ I will wait upon you very soon, Mr. Shooter.’

‘ Well ! do, I shall be glad to see you and Mrs. Wright, and bring Miss Nanny with you : I am sorry to see her grow so lean ; but I’ll try to fatten her up with my October.’

Then

Then turning to his sister, ‘ come, Deb,
‘ I think it grows time for us to be mov-
‘ ing.’

Upon which she rose, and after giving Mrs. Goodall and Miss Wellers an invitation to her brother’s house, with great ceremony she left the room, and was handed to the chariot by the doctor. The squire mounting the box, ordered the coachman to take his horse, for he would drive home. Then setting up a loud hallow, and calling his retinue of dogs by their names, he gave two or three flourishes with his whip, and drove off, leaving the ladies, as he imagined, not a little amazed at his dexterity.

The company returning into the parlour, Miss Wellers observed, that Mr. Shooter was one of the oddest gentlemen she ever saw.

‘ I perceived,’ said the Doctor, ‘ you were
‘ surpris’d at his manner. He has not had
‘ the advantage of a liberal education;
‘ and to the want of that, you must im-
‘ pute

' pte those particularities in his behavi-
 ' our. But he is an honest well-meaning
 ' man ; and has many valuable qualities :
 ' and I believe you have too much good-
 ' sense, to despise a person who is less fa-
 ' voured by nature in that particular ; and
 ' will not regard that man as an object
 ' of derision, whose foibles proceed rather
 ' from ignorance than intention. And,
 ' young lady, take it from me, the man
 ' of weak intellects, who, as far as his dis-
 ' cernment reaches, avoids an *ill*, and per-
 ' forms a *good* action upon *principle*, me-
 ' rits that place in your esteem, which you
 ' ought to refuse to one of bright parts,
 ' who acts in direct opposition to the dic-
 ' tates of his superior understanding.'

Miss Wellers told the Doctor, she
 thought herself extremely obliged to him
 for his admonitions, and begg'd he would
 favour her more frequently with them.

Mrs. Goodall now propos'd a walk to
 the Parsonage, in order to fetch Mrs.
 Wright. When they came there, they found
 her

her busied in preparing a caudle for a poor woman who was just delivered.

Mrs. Goodall expressed some concern at being deprived of her company that afternoon ; to which Mrs. Wright replied, that she had waited on her, if her attendance on the poor woman, who was now safe in bed, had not prevented her.

Mrs. Goodall assured her, the excuse was too good to need a further apology ; but insisted on her accompanying them now to the Hall.

She consented ; and the discourse turning again on Mr. Shooter, the doctor expatiated largely on the benefits arising from a good education. He lamented, that Mrs. Shooter, by a mistaken fondness, which would not permit her to let her son be a day out of her sight, had deprived him of those advantages he might otherwise have reapt, by a cultivation of the good disposition he inherited ; and which, for want of such improvement, was so over-run with
vulgar

vulgar oddities, as to render it quite obscure to the eye of a common observer.

In this, and such like conversation, they passed the evening. And no word tending to detraction escaped from any in this little company. They pitied the vices, overlooked the foibles, and dwelt only on the *good* qualities of their neighbours. They separated at eleven, the usual hour of Mrs. Goodall's retiring.

C H A P. III.

A continuation of Miss Burton's story.

THE time being come that Miss Burton had promised to attend Miss Wellers to the Grove, we will suppose them seated, and Miss Wellers reminding her of her engagement. Miss Burton, having fetched a deep sigh, proceeded :

‘ I think, my dear, we were interrupted just as I had informed you I began to conceive hopes that the father of my lover would be less inflexible than I had feared. The epistle which occasioned them, was followed by several of the like import, all flattering me with the prospect of having well-nigh surmounted every obstacle that had hitherto opposed our union ; and that we had only to wait till my lover attained to a certain age, at which time the old gentleman had proposed to resign a living which would afford us a pretty competency.

‘ I

‘ I had been so long habituated to regard
‘ Mr. Willit as my future husband, that
‘ my affection for him increased daily, and
‘ I thought it my duty to turn a deaf ear
‘ to the slightest insinuations against him.

‘ During the time of my acquaintance
‘ with him, I was addressed by two other
‘ gentlemen, both his superiors in point
‘ of fortune, and neither of them his in-
‘ ferior in any respect. Their characters
‘ were unexceptionable. But, with due ac-
‘ knowledgment of their merit, I declined
‘ both their offers, and gave them to un-
‘ derstand, that Mr. Willit had engaged
‘ my affections before I was acquainted
‘ with their intentions. My lover appear-
‘ ed all gratitude at the preference I gave
‘ him.

‘ At this period, an event happened,
‘ which was the source of great vexation
‘ to me, and our whole family. My aunt,
‘ one day, hired a chariot, and without
‘ mentioning a syllable of her intentions
‘ to

‘ to any one, left our house, saying, there
‘ would be no occasion to kindle the fire in
‘ her chamber, for she would not return
‘ that night.

‘ You may imagine we were in great
‘ consternation at her abrupt departure and
‘ privacy. But she did not suffer us to
‘ remain long in suspense, as to the occa-
‘ sion of it. For in three days after, my
‘ mother received a letter from her, in-
‘ forming her, that the morning after she
‘ quitted our house, she was married to
‘ Mr. Sharp, an attorney that used to
‘ transact her affairs.

‘ He was very indigent, and had a fa-
‘ mily of six children. Notwithstanding
‘ they said he was well versed in all the
‘ quirks and chicanery of the law, he
‘ had so bad a reputation, that no body
‘ cared to employ him.

‘ This intelligence was like a thunder-
‘ bolt to me, since it defeated all my ex-
‘ pectations of a fortune. Yet I consol-

‘ ed

‘ ed myself in the confidence I reposed in
 ‘ Mr. Willit’s integrity and disinterested-
 ‘ ness, for whose sake, more than my own,
 ‘ I had wished a fortune.

‘ This disappointment was succeeded by
 ‘ one of a much more shocking nature ;
 ‘ for my father, in the month following,
 ‘ was seized with a malignant fever, which
 ‘ deprived him of his senses in two days,
 ‘ and of his life in seven. My mother,
 ‘ having caught the distemper by her at-
 ‘ tendance on him, survived him but a
 ‘ week. To add to my grief, my brother
 ‘ was absent, having just before set out on
 ‘ his travels : since which time I have ne-
 ‘ ver seen him.

‘ My parents were scarcely cold, when,
 ‘ to aggravate the horror of the scene,
 ‘ the officers entered the house, and clap’d
 ‘ a seal on all the furniture. What I felt
 ‘ at that dreadful time, you will more
 ‘ easily imagine than I can describe.

‘ In this forlorn situation, I received
 ‘ compliments of condolence from confi-

derable families, with whom my parents had lived in intimacy; but not one of them thought proper to offer me a place of refuge in their house, or any trifle towards a mitigation of my distress.

When I could rally my confused thoughts a little, I dispatched a messenger to my uncle Wright, who was so kind as to ride forty miles in one day, to give me comfort. This dear and valuable friend offered immediately to conduct me to his house, where he told me I might remain as long as I pleased. With the utmost gratitude I accepted his kind offer; and have ever since experienced a parental regard, both from him and my good aunt.

As soon I was fix'd here, I wrote to Mr. Willit, informing him of all that had happened, and received a very affectionate and consolatory answer from him: which was followed, in less than a week, by a very contrary epistle from his father, who cruelly upbraided me with

‘ with my parents misconduct; and concluded with a protestation, that if his son married me, he would renounce him for ever, and should take such measures, that no part of his substance should descend to him.’

‘ This cruel letter threw me into an agony that alarmed the whole family. My uncle offered to go and talk with the old gentleman, in order to palliate matters, if he could.

‘ Accordingly he set out. I impatiently ly waited his return, and the moment I saw him, asked him if he had succeeded? Instead of replying to my question, he fell to commending the fortitude of a lady that he met with upon the road, who had lately lost the tenderest and best of husbands, with whom she had lived in ease and plenty seven years, and had brought him five children, three of which survived him, and were left destitute of any provision, by their father’s having engaged in a bond for a large sum, to relieve an

‘extravagant brother, which the brother’s
‘creditors, at this gentleman’s death, de-
‘manded; and as he had left scarcely
‘enough to pay it, they had taken posses-
‘sion of his house, and turned the widow
‘and children out of doors.’

‘I met Mrs. Hope,’ (continued my un-
cle) ‘going to London in the waggon,
‘and as I had some knowlege of her for-
‘merly, I spoke to her, and was much
‘pleased to find she could answer me with
‘chearfulness.

‘Dr. Wright,’ said she, ‘you have
‘seen me in my days of prosperity, I am
‘the more obliged to you, for taking no-
‘tice of me in those of my adversity.’

‘I told her I was extremely concerned
‘at the change in her condition; and asked
‘whither she was going, and what she pro-
‘posed to do?’

‘She answered, she was going to town,
‘and as God Almighty was so kind to
‘grant

' grant her health and strength, she had
 ' thoughts of getting into some way of
 ' business; she believed she should be able
 ' to find her girls and herself with bread,
 ' provided she could be employed as a
 ' seamstress; and hoped, by the interest of
 ' friends, to get the boy into one of the
 ' hospitals, or some other charitable founda-
 ' tion. She said, she had the comfort to
 ' reflect, that she had been no way accessa-
 ' ry to her misfortunes, and had many
 ' blessings still left, such as health, and
 ' some few friends, for which she was
 ' very thankful.

' I was never more moved, (continued
 ' my uncle) I intreated her to accept of
 ' two guineas, exhorting her to continue
 ' to put her trust where I found she had
 ' so judiciously placed it, and I made no
 ' doubt but she would meet with her re-
 ' ward even in this life.

' She returned me a thousand thanks,
 ' and promised to inform me of her situ-
 ' ation when she was fix'd.

‘ I grew so impatient for the result of
‘ my uncle’s visit, that I was about to in-
‘ terrupt him several times. And now,
‘ finding he had concluded his recital, I
‘ renewed my enquiries, and by degrees
‘ got out of him, that old Mr. Willit ob-
‘ stinately adhered to the contents of his
‘ epistle, and that I must endeavour to for-
‘ get all that had passed between his son
‘ and me. Alas ! he might as well have
‘ desired me to forget that I breathe.’

‘ I burst into tears, when my uncle
‘ begg’d me to summon all my fortitude
‘ to support a disappointment which he be-
‘ lieved was very great ; but reminded me
‘ of Mrs. Hope’s behaviour under a much
‘ greater trial.

‘ This hint made me endeavour to con-
‘ ceal what passed in my mind, though
‘ what I endured will never be obliterated
‘ from my memory : and as I never had
‘ the least quarrel with my lover, I cannot
‘ account for his silence, for he never has
‘ wrote

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‘ wrote to me since. And loth I am to accuse him of perfidy, without full conviction ; though all my friends say, his taciturnity is a proof that he has deserted me in a dishonourable manner.

‘ I know not what to think, or how to account for a behaviour so blame-worthy on his, and so undeserved on my side. His idea is perpetually before my eyes ; and I believe I regard him in a more favourable light than his conduct merits ; but, as the poet says,

’Tis a hard task to conquer love,
And wean the soul from its accustom’d
fondness !

‘ I was flattered with the notion that time would lessen my uneasiness ; but I cannot say it has had that salutary effect, either in regard to the concern I feel for the loss of my dear parents, or for the obstacles which prevent my seeing Mr. Willit.—It is near two years since our separation, which I fear will be eternal.’

‘ Perhaps not, my dear Nancy,’ (replied Miss Wellers) ‘ who knows what may happen ? Though I must confess your lover’s silence is unaccountable ; yet ’tis not impossible there may be other reasons for it than those which your friends assign. But if he should be as guilty as they represent, I hope your good sense will enable you to overcome a tenderness he cannot merit. Does Mrs. Goodall know of this affair ?’

‘ Yes,’ answered Miss Burton, ‘ and is of the same opinion with my uncle ; but they are so kind to make no mention of him to me now, as they find it gives me pain to hear any reflections cast upon his honour.’

‘ Pray, my dear,’ said Miss Wellers, ‘ do you think Mr. Willit ever made his addresses to any other, in this interval ?’

‘ Not that I know of,’ replied her friend, ‘ if he has—why then—I know not what
‘ to

‘ to say. Sure he cannot be so base, after
 ‘ the solemn vows we have interchanged.’

Miss Wellers assured her she did not know of any such thing, and set herself to administer all the consolation in her power. She used every argument that a tender friendship and good sense could dictate, in order to dissipate the gloom that had spread itself over Miss Burton’s mind; who told her, that the intimacy she had contracted with her, had afforded more relief to her spirits than any thing could have done since the commencement of her misfortunes.

The ladies now stop’d to listen to a rustling amongst the trees; the occasion of which will be shewn in,

C H A P. IV.

A gentleman in boots makes his appearance.

THE rustling which the ladies heard, they soon perceived to be occasioned by a gentleman in a riding dress, whom Miss Wellers presently knew to be her acquaintance Mr. Godfrey. He apologized for interrupting them in their agreeable retreat; and said, he had not taken that liberty, but in obedience to Mrs. Goodall's commands, who had sent him to find them out.

After the first salutations were over, the barrister congratulated Miss Wellers on the improvement the country air had made in her looks. The lady of the house joining them, the conversation became general.

During this gentleman's stay, Mrs. Goodall introduced him into the best families

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milies in the neighbourhood; and carried him to see all the curiosities in it. His behaviour to Miss Wellers was perfectly respectful, and her's to him easy, modest, and unreserved. He partook with the ladies in all their rural diversions; and was excessively delighted with the conversation of Dr. Wright and his family.

One evening, returning from that gentleman's house with Miss Wellers, he observed to her, that Miss Burton was a pretty genteel woman, and seemed to have an uncommon share of sense; but he was concerned to observe an appearance of melancholy in her countenance.

‘ Ah, poor girl!’ said Miss Wellers, ‘ she has but too much cause for that appearance.’

‘ I am sorry, madam,’ returned the gentleman, ‘ that a person of Miss Burton’s merit should have a real cause for such a dejection.’

His companion then related that part of her friend's story which did not concern Mr. Willit, as a proof of the truth of what she had affirmed. She then asked him, as if by way of conversation, if he knew such a person as Mr. Willit, a clergyman in Warwickshire?

He replied, ' I have no acquaintance with him, but I knew his son Joe at the university ;' and, in some confusion, asked if she had any particular reason for enquiring after that family?

She answered, ' I must own I would gladly be informed of any thing relating to it. Not that I am acquainted with them, otherwise than by report.'

She then began to put many questions to him concerning young Willit, telling him, he should know her reasons another time.

He with a blush informed her, that Joe had acquired great reputation in the university.

verfity. And he muft acknowlege, he was a very clever young-fellow.

Mrs. Goodall's approach prevented them from purfuing the topic ; and they had no opportunity of refuming it that night.

When Mr. Godfrey retired to his chamber, he found his mind cruelly agitated, from a fufpicion that Mifs Wellers's enquiries after Mr. Willit had given rife to. And as moft lovers feem fond of entertaining fuch as can give them pain, he pondered upon it, and many other circumftances that he had a confufed notion of, from hearing that young Willit was in love with, and beloved by, a woman of merit, that his father difapproved of, on account of a deficiency in the article of fortune. All which recurring to his mind, joined to the earneftnefs of Mifs Wellers's enquiries, confirmed him in the reality of the fufpicion he had entertained, that Mr. Willit had gained the affections of his charmer, and that confequently all his hopes were defeated.

He

He passed the night in an anxiety, the natural result of such disagreeable reflections, and sustained a sharp conflict between his passion and generosity; wherein the latter, at last, gained the victory. He determined to suppress the former, if it any ways interfered with it; and should the case be as he suspected, to offer all the service in his power to unite the happier Willit to Miss Wellers.

Fix'd in this laudable resolution, he went into Mrs. Goodall's apartment next morning, but had not the satisfaction to meet the young lady at breakfast, she being gone to the Parsonage, in order to let Miss Burton know that Mr. Godfrey was acquainted with Mr. Willit; and to desire her permission to communicate the affair between that gentleman and her to Mr. Godfrey.

Her friend was full of acknowledgments for this fresh proof of her regard, and agreed to the proposition. They were
talking

talking upon this subject, when the bar-rister appeared at the Doctor's gate, being come with a design of attending Miss Wellers back, and of sounding her inclinations in regard to Willit. But she prevented his putting his intentions in execution, by saying, as they were walking home, ' You seemed surpris'd, Sir, at the ' questions I troubled you with, concerning Mr. Willit. I am now at liberty ' to reveal the occasion of them.' She then related to him the story Miss Burton had told her, in fewer words.

It is impossible to conceive the joy this eclaircissement afforded him: and it cost him some pains to prevent its being too apparent in his countenance.

He profess'd great compassion for Miss Burton, and said, she might command all his services;—that if she thought proper to entrust him with a letter or message to Mr. Willit, it should be carefully delivered. Or if it was more agreeable to her, he would make him a visit, and endeavour
to

to unriddle the mystery of his proceedings. This last method, Miss Wellers was of opinion, her friend would most approve.

Mr. Godfrey, now happily relieved from his anxiety, could not help telling his fair companion, that, from her enquiries, he had entertained a notion that Mr. Willit was an admirer of her's. But, in this declaration, did not give the least hint, that he himself was at all interested in the case. She smiled at his supposition, but protested she was entirely free from any engagement of that nature, adding, 'from the
'uneasiness my friend experiences, I think
'myself very happy, in having no such
'attachment.'

This speech, though it freed him from all fear of a rival at present, made him apprehensive, that he should not be able, with all his assiduities, to make an impression on a heart so fortified.

The day being come on which he was to set out for town, Mrs. Goodall's and the
Doctor's

Doctor's family attended him to the place where he was to dine, and there parted with mutual regret.

C H A P. V.

Which brings the reader acquainted with high-life.

MR. Godfrey had not been gone many days, when Mrs. Goodall was informed, that her nephew Sir Harry Wilmore, and his sister, with Sir Andrew Dumiell, intended her a visit of a week, and should be with her on the Monday following.

This intelligence was very agreeable to her, as she had not seen her nephew since he returned from making the grand tour. Before their arrival she thought proper to give Miss Wellers some account of them. She told her Sir Harry was a gay handsome young fellow, of bright parts; and cautioned her to guard her heart against his approach; that her niece was a well accomplished

plished young lady, but having never met with the least contradiction from her childhood, she was a little too imperious, and was what the world calls a fine lady ; that Sir Andrew was a young baronet of a large fortune, but very defective in his understanding, having employed all his thoughts and care in the adornment of his person, which was very far from being amiable, notwithstanding all his trouble.

‘ I have heard,’ (added the lady) ‘ that he carried this folly to that height, as to offer the president of the royal-society a fee, to procure him a receipt, to prevent gold and silver lace from tarnishing ; and that, instead of a remedy, he met with a rebuke. He makes his addresses to Miss Wilsmore, and she, induced, I fear, rather from motives of grandeur than affection, has consented to marry him.’

On the day appointed, this company arrived, with a splendid equipage. Mrs. Goodall was highly delighted, to observe
great

great improvements in the person and address of her nephew ; Sir Harry returned her congratulations in the politest manner, then made a genteel compliment to Miss Wellers. Miss Willmore addressed her aunt ; but to Miss Wellers's salutation returned only a slight bow, then cast her eyes upon the pictures.

‘ Miss Willmore,’ said Mrs. Goodall, (taking Miss Wellers by the hand) ‘ permit me to introduce this young lady to your acquaintance.’ Upon which she returned a second inclination of her head, and remained silent, till rising from her chair, she begg’d leave to retire to her apartment, in order to recompose her dress after her journey.

Miss Wellers obligingly offered to attend her ; but she told her, as her own woman was in the house, she would not give her that trouble. Then ordering her to be called, she ascended the stair-case with great state, being followed by Mrs. Goodall, who conducted her into her chamber, and then withdrew.

When

When the lady found herself alone with her woman, 'Wordfall,' said she, 'have you seen the young-woman my aunt has taken into her family?'

'No, mem, I have seen no *creetcher* but the house-keeper, and Mrs. Martin, at present; neither am I fit to be seen by strangers, till I can put myself in order, for your *la'ship* was in such *precipitancy* to set out, that I had no time to put myself in a figure to appear. Has Mrs. Goodall got any new servant in the house, then, mem?'

'Not that I know of; the girl I mean, is not in that capacity.'

'Oh! then your *la'ship* means Miss Wellers, I suppose: I heard Mrs. Martin mention that young lady.'

'You need not lady the girl, Wordfall. Come, put my hair in order: stay, fetch the lavender water.'

Wordfall

Wordsfall was running to obey her last command, when she called out, ' Bless me! what, art going fort, before you have set my hair?'

' La, mem! I thought your *la'ship* chose to be *insenced* first.'

' You thought! what signifies your thoughts?—Come! prithee don't be tedious; I am sure I shall catch my death while you are awkwardly fiddling the wire of that cap.' Then snatching it out of her hand, ' Why, Wordsfall! could you imagine I would wear this hideous thing? Go! fetch a gauze one.'

' Yes, mem! that that Mrs. Peck sent last.'

' No, I won't have that; 'tis odious! but I suppose I am to dine without one.'

' Oh, mem! here's a corded Mechlin one, will you please to wear that?'

' Take

‘ Take it away, I beseech you, Wordfall, you shan’t dress me up like a fright.’

‘ Why, which would your *la’ship* be pleased to put on?’

‘ Since you will give me no other, I must wear that you brought first. Hark! is not that the dinner bell?—What can the aukward wench be doing? Come, madam,’ said she, (making a low curtsey to Wordfall) ‘ do me the favour to dress my head.’

No sooner had Wordfall placed the cap on, than she snatched it off. ‘ How well you minded me, when I bid you es-
sence my hair?’

‘ Really, mem! I thought’—

‘ Thought again! prithee have done with your impertinent thought, and tell me how I look; has not the journey
given

‘ given me a shocking healthy complexion ?’

‘ Oh, mem ! you always look killing handsome !’

‘ Dy’e hear, Wordfall ! be sure you observe Lucy Wellers, and tell me what you think of her person.’

‘ I will, mem, with a *scruplelizing* eye.’

A summons to dinner broke off their conversation. At table, Miss Willsmore took every opportunity of staring Miss Wellers in the face, with a well-bred assurance. Sir Harry slyly directed his glances, when he thought they were least liable to observation. Sir Andrew was too much engaged in the contemplation of his own excellencies, to pay any great regard to those of the company ; and though his mistress was allowed to be very handsome, he had rather made choice of her because others admired her beauty, than that he was sensible of its influence. But as many fine gentlemen, chuse fine things for the sake of
out-

out-bidding others in the purchase, without having any notion of their intrinsic value, this *fine* baronet, imagined that *fine* lady would make a *fine* figure in his equipage, and excite the envy of his competitors.

In the evening, Mrs. Goodall proposed a walk in the grove; to which her niece objected, that she had been two months out of town, and was surfeited with the sight of trees; adding, she could endure no grove but Vauxhall, and begg'd they might *kill* an hour at whisk.

Cards, upon this, were immediately ordered, which amused them till they retired to their respective apartments.

In the morning, Miss Willmore asked her woman her opinion of Lucy?

She replied, 'Why, mem, I think she has a good complexion, if she had not too much colour.'

'Aye,

‘ Ay, Wordfall!—A perfect milkmaid!
‘ Is she not?’

‘ Oh, yes, mem! you had great felicity
‘ in lighting on that wash, that abated
‘ the red in your complexion.’

‘ Then her eyes, Wordfall!’

‘ Oh yes, mem! her eyes!’

‘ Aye;—they have no meaning! though
‘ they are a good colour, for black.’

‘ Oh, no, mem! no meaning at all!
‘ they have not that *loquacity* there is in
‘ yours, to be sure.’

‘ Her hair, I think, is too dark. Ha!
‘ Wordfall!

‘ Oh, yes, mem! to be sure; it is not
‘ so pale as yours, and *consequency* is not
‘ so delicate.’

‘ What think you of her nose?’

‘ Her nose, mem !

‘ Ay, Wordfall, is it not insignificant,
‘ and conveys the idea of a jointed doll ?’

‘ Oh yes, mem ! for all the world like
‘ wax-work !’

‘ Pooh !—I mean that, that, and her
‘ mouth,—and, in short, all her features
‘ are too small ; and her whole counte-
‘ nance betrays a meanness—a—you
‘ know what I would say, Wordfall.’

‘ Oh yes, mem ! I perfectly understand
‘ your *superscription*.’

‘ Then she is too little, in my opinion,
‘ for a fine woman.’

‘ Oh yes, mem ! quite a *lillipersian*.’

This dialogue would probably have con-
tinued much longer, if a servant, who came
to desire Miss Willmore’s company, in Mrs.
Goodall’s dressing-room, had not put an
end to that, and likewise to this chapter.

C H A P.

C H A P. VI.

In which Miss Wellers makes a request
to a great beau.

MISS Willmore excused herself from attending her aunt's summons, and desired to breakfast in her own apartment, saying, she had not slept a wink all night, and was much disordered with the head-ach.

This intelligence was received with great composure by Sir Andrew, who was employed in viewing his Dresden cap, and pink and silver night-gown, in a large pier-glass, humming a tune: Which Miss Wellers was so pleased with, that she desired, he would favour her with the words to it. He replied, 'Madam, you do me 'honour, they shall kiss your hands the 'very first opportunity.'

Mrs. Goodall was so alarmed at Miss Willmore's answer to her message, that

she went directly into her chamber; and Miss Wellers having given the gentlemen their tea, went to visit Miss Burton.

Mrs. Goodall having expressed her concern for her indisposition, told Miss Willmore, that she was sorry to observe the coolness with which she treated Miss Wellers.

To which her niece replied, ‘ Though
‘ you, madam, have condescended to
‘ honour the girl with a regard that
‘ amazes us all, you cannot expect, that
‘ your friends will carry their complai-
‘ sance so far, as to level themselves with a
‘ girl maintained by charity. Mrs. Searls
‘ has informed me what a low creature
‘ she is, by giving me a full account of
‘ her. And I thought you very kind, to
‘ take her into your house, as an object of
‘ charity; and imagined you designed her
‘ for an assistant to your house-keeper.
‘ But it never could enter into my imagi-
‘ nation, that you would think her a pro-
‘ per companion for me.’

Mrs.

Mrs. Goodall answered, ‘ If you have
 ‘ had a true relation of that young lady’s
 ‘ misfortunes, and can look upon her in
 ‘ the light you represent, I shall think your
 ‘ education very ill bestowed. I perceive
 ‘ you don’t esteem Searls’s family beneath
 ‘ your notice; then to what can I im-
 ‘ pute your haughty deportment to a per-
 ‘ son as well descended as most gentle-
 ‘ women in the nation, who had an edu-
 ‘ cation suitable to her birth, and is desti-
 ‘ tute of no qualification that might grace
 ‘ an higher; but to a meanness, which I
 ‘ am sure you never inherited either from
 ‘ your father or my sister.’

Miss Willmore, surprised to hear her
 aunt talk in this manner, said, she did not
 know by her description, who she was talking
 of; but that Mrs. Searls had assured her, that
 the girl named Lucy Wellers, whom Mrs.
 Goodall had taken into her house, Mr. Searls
 had taken into his some time upon cha-
 rity, and was going to put her apprentice
 to a mantua-maker, had not he been pre-
 vented by her removal. But, continued
 she, ‘ I find there must be some mistake,

‘ for I perceive no connection with her
 ‘ story, and what you have said.’

‘ There is no mistake in the case, my
 ‘ dear Harriot,’ answered Mrs. Goodall,
 ‘ as you will be convinced, when you
 ‘ have heard what I have to say.’ She
 then related Mrs. Searls’s account of Miss
 Wellers to her, not forgetting the intel-
 ligence which she had received from Mrs.
 Stedman.

Miss Willsmore seemed very attentive,
 and when her aunt had concluded, asked
 her pardon, for supposing she could con-
 descend to converse with a creature *sprung*
from a dung-hill.

To which the good lady reply’d, ‘ Merit
 ‘ intitles any one, even of the meanest
 ‘ extraction, to the notice of every judi-
 ‘ cious person. And had Miss Wellers’s
 ‘ origin been as obscure as Martha Bar-
 ‘ ret’s, with the advantages she has received
 ‘ from nature and education, I should never
 ‘ have thought it any derogation from my
 cha-

* character, to have made her my companion.*

To this her niece made no other reply than, if she had known Miss Wellers was a *gentlewoman*, she should have treated her with more respect.

What Mrs. Goodall said had so good an effect upon Miss Wilsmore, that when she appeared at dinner, she behaved to Miss Wellers with more affability than she had done; and from that time paid her the respect due to her birth, rather than to her *qualifications*.

Sir Harry was very assiduous in his devoirs to that young lady, whenever he had an opportunity of being alone with her, and bestowed the highest encomiums on her person and understanding. To say truth, her beauty had struck him at first sight, and inspired him with a passion mis-called love.

This gentleman was deemed, by all his acquaintance, the most generous man up-

on earth; yet he had, from the knowledge of her indigence, entertained hopes, and formed schemes, of giving himself the highest satisfaction, by rendering her one of the most despicable persons of her sex. But as so noble an achievement required the utmost subtilty and circumspection, whilst she was under the watchful eye of her good guardian, he, for the present, was very careful, not to give her the least suspicion of his designs. His compliments she received, as proceeding from his politeness; and though she avoided, as much as possible, all occasions that might afford him an opportunity of venting them, yet she never imagined from what source they were in reality derived. Nothing loose, or immoral, appeared either in his behaviour or expressions; and as he had the advantages of a fine person and understanding, embellish'd by a polite education, and thorough knowledge of the world, he did not appear in an unamiable light to her.

To prevent his aunt from having any surmises of his intentions, he avoided being particular to Miss Wellers in her presence. And one day, when he was alone with Mrs. Goodall, artfully led her into a discourse concerning her ward; in which he commended the friendly protection she granted her, as it might be a means of securing her from snares which her youth and circumstances rendered her liable to be caught in. ‘And her beauty, you may add,’ answered Mrs. Goodall, ‘for I believe, Sir Harry, you will allow she has some.’

‘Madam,’ replied the baronet, ‘I would by no means detract from the merit of a young lady, who is honoured with your esteem; but beauty, you know, is the child of fancy: and though I think her very well, yet give me leave to observe, that I have, both at home and abroad, seen such a variety of fine women, that you’ll pardon me when I confess I perceive nothing remarkably

I 5

‘striking

‘striking in her person: but as every
 ‘man may not be of my opinion, you
 ‘would do well to keep a watchful eye
 ‘over the men of your acquaintance.’ He
 then gave broad hints that his heart was
 under an engagement since he left Eng-
 land.

Dr. Wright, his lady, and niece, wait-
 ed upon the visitors at the Hall, during
 their stay. The Doctor’s conversation with
 Sir Harry was chiefly on the subject of his
 travels. The baronet made so many ju-
 dicious remarks on what had fallen with-
 in his observation, that the Doctor was
 quite charmed with the good sense and
 elegance of his discourse. It chancing
 to fall on the ruins of Herculaneum,
 Sir Andrew put in a word, desiring to
 know, if the gold and silver trimmings
 were not horridly tarnished? and express-
 ed a great desire of having an account
 of the dresses of the persons there found.

Miss Willmore said, No doubt, as there
 was so much good company, some of
 them

them were found with cards in their hands, and she should be glad to be informed, whether quadrille or whist was most in vogue amongst them: adding, what a vexation it must be, to be swallow'd up by an earthquake, when one had a vole fans prendre in one's hand; or perhaps a full rubber at whist depending.

Mrs. Goodall reproved her niece, for speaking so lightly of so tremendous an event.

‘ Bless me ! madam,’ answered that lady, ‘ I am sure no body can have more dreadful apprehensions of an earthquake than I ; for in that which happened lately here, I was frighted out of my wits, and did not go to one masquerade the whole season.’

‘ Oh *shaking* !’ cry’d Sir Andrew, I never shall forget it ; for I went with my hair curl’d but on one side the whole day : Damerlick was dressing me, when the room shook, and drop’d the irons out of

‘ his hand ; and I was so busy’d when I
‘ came to myself, in picking up the broken
‘ china that fell from the top of my ca-
‘ binet, that I never finished my dress.’

After the Doctor’s family were departed, Miss Willmore took occasion to say, Mrs. Wright was as conversible a mortal as she had seen in the country ; and the Doctor was very *bearable*, considering he was a parson. And she fancied, in a wet afternoon, she could be tolerably amused with such company.

C H A P. VII.

Which introduces another Doctor to the reader's acquaintance.

THE time being elapsed, that Mrs. Goodall's visitors propos'd staying, on the evening before they were to depart Sir Harry complain'd of a violent pain in his head, and a disorder all over him; which encreased to that degree, that he begg'd leave to retire to his chamber, the moment he had supp'd. Mrs. Goodall propos'd sending for a physician immediately; but he protest'd, none of the Esculapian tribe should come near him, and hop'd he should be better after a night's rest.

When he was withdrawn, Sir Andrew, and his lady elect, gave Mrs. Goodall and Miss Wellers a pressing invitation to come and grace their nuptials with their presence, and obtained a promise from those ladies of waiting on them upon that occasion.

Next

Next morning, Sir Harry found himself too much indisposed for a journey: however, he said, as he knew Miss Wilsmore was under an engagement for that week, he begg'd his illness might not detain her. So having taken a polite adieu of the family, she set out with Wordsfall, and Sir Andrew attended her in his chariot and six.

Mrs. Goodall now thought it expedient to send for a neighbouring physician and apothecary, notwithstanding her nephew's aversion to the gentlemen of the faculty. Accordingly, they both arrived, and were conducted to his chamber, before he had any intimation of her design. Hearing his door open, he started up in his bed. 'Valiere!' said he, 'are they gone?'

Imagine his surprise, when his trusty valet, instead of replying to his question, said, 'Sar! here be monsieur le Docteur, come vor 'fee, your pulse.' Then drawing back the curtain, presented to the baroner's view

view a very grave personage, the natural sagacity of whose countenance was render'd still more solemn, by an enormous peruke and neck-cloth, set in the primmest form. Behind this figure, at an awful distance, appeared another, with a phiz drawn out to a considerable length, in which, if he observed less dignity, there was an equal share of gravity.

The Doctor applied his hand alternately to his patient's pulse and his own, and having asked several questions, needless here to mention, he call'd for pen, ink, and paper, which he flourish'd with some minutes, then delivered his scrawl to his attendant, who received it with a bow down to the ground.

Upon quitting the chamber, the Doctor found Mrs. Goodall at the door, impatiently expecting his opinion of the case, which he delivered to her in very learned and ambiguous terms, the purport of which (rendered into intelligible English) was, that he saw no symptoms of danger

at present ; but she was very prudent in sending for him so early, as he hoped he could give the distemper a check, before it got to any height : That he had ordered Sir Harry a gentle emetic, and some draughts to be taken periodically, and hoped in a few days to find an amendment.

Mrs. Goodall would have detained the Doctor to dinner, but he begg'd to be excused, having at least thirty miles about, to ride that day, to visit patients. He took his fee and his leave. No sooner was he gone, but Mrs. Goodall went to the baronet's chamber, to impart to him the comfortable opinion of Dr. Manslay.

Valiere stop'd her at the door, and told her, his master was *in sleep* : and she did not think it proper to disturb him in so salutary a situation.

About two hours after, Valiere again approach'd Sir Harry with the disagreeable news of the apothecary's return. He had brought with him a due quantity of ipecacuanha,

cacuanha, which he insisted on his patient's swallowing.

The baronet obstinately refused to comply with the Doctor's prescription in that particular, protesting he would never attempt to go through an operation that had once been near costing him his life; but had no objection against taking any other medicine he should think proper to leave behind him, not but he had found a surprising alteration for the better since he had slept.

No sooner did the apothecary disappear, than Sir Harry quitted his bed, and sat up in his night gown; sent to desire he might have a boiled chicken; but begg'd to be excused from holding any conversation with any one, till he had rested that night.

He took care to empty the Doctor's draughts, regularly every two hours, into the park. Every time his good aunt sent to enquire after his disorder, she had the satis-

satisfaction to hear it was abated ; and in the morning, he declared he should be able to come down to dinner ; which speedy alteration the apothecary imputed to the effect of those medicines, which the baronet, as has been observed, presented to the deer.

However, he did not think fit to contradict the apothecary's supposition ; on the contrary, appeared extremely pleased with him, and told him he preferred his judgment to that of Dr. Manslay, and desired never to see the last mentioned gentleman again.

He continued to mend every hour, and at the end of three days complained of no disorder, but a weakness, which render'd him unfit to sit a horse at present ; but nevertheless, was not sufficient to hinder him from accompanying the ladies in the coach in their airings, in one of which Mrs. Goodall carry'd him to Stow. Mrs. Wright was desired to accept of a place in the coach, and the Doctor attended them with his niece in his own chaise.

They

They were very agreeably amused with the curiosities in those gardens. The various pieces of sculpture led the gentlemen into a discourse concerning those Sir Harry had viewed in Italy; amongst the rest, he took occasion to mention the Grecian Venus at Florence; upon which the Doctor said, he remember'd an extempore epigram, of a very ingenious young clergyman's on viewing that admirable effect of art.

Sir Harry, and the ladies, intreated him, if he could recollect the lines, he would oblige them with a repetition of them. 'I have not the pleasure of any acquaintance with the author,' (replied the Doctor) 'and as they came into my hands by accident, I am not certain whether he will not be offended with the communication of them; but I really think it too ingenious a composition to be concealed.* The lines are these.

An

An extempore epigram, on seeing the statue of Venus, at Florence.*

‘ Fair Grecian wonder ! should that lovely mein,
 ‘ Those genuine charms of beauty’s pow’r-
 ‘ ful queen
 ‘ With senseless, cold indifference, e’er be
 ‘ seen :
 ‘ Frown, Goddess ! from thy pedestal, and
 ‘ show
 ‘ Celestial anger kindling on thy brow ;
 ‘ To prove, in just despite of injur’d art,
 ‘ Thy form less stone, than the dull gazer’s
 ‘ heart.’

The company returned the Doctor thanks, and expressed the highest approbation of the performance ; which Sir Harry said, did no less honour to the ingenious author than to the inimitable statuary.

On their return, the Doctor said, by way of contrast to what they had seen, he must invite

* We hope the ingenious author of this epigram will pardon the liberty Dr. Wright has taken with it,

invite them to drink a fillabub, in a little temple he had just erected in his garden. They were accordingly set down at the Parsonage, and the Doctor conducted them into his temple. They were extremely pleased with a situation that was indebted so little to art or grandeur.

Miss Wellers looking round her, asked the Doctor if he did not intend to ornament his new edifice with a few busts? He paused a while, and taking out a pocket-book, wrote the following lines with a pencil, which he delivered to her by way of reply.

- ‘ No gaudy idol in this dome is seen,
- ‘ Of war’s fierce god, or beauty’s wanton
‘ queen ;
- ‘ But far more sacred, having you, it vies
- ‘ With those proud structures that affront
‘ the skies.
- ‘ The truest temple is, where sits enshrin’d
- ‘ The nearest pow’r to heaven, the vir-
‘ tuous mind.’

She

She received the compliment in the manner it deserved; and the company passed a very agreeable evening.

At parting with the Doctor, Sir Harry declared to Mrs. Goodall, he was so charmed with that gentleman's conversation, that he should leave the village with extreme regret, and intimated that it would be very agreeable to him to stay and attend her to his own seat, when she return'd Miss Willmore's visit.

His aunt was much pleased with the sentiments he entertained of the Doctor; and unwilling to deprive him of the advantages she thought he might derive from an intimacy with a person of his morality and learning, desired he would make her house his home, till they could all go together to Sir Andrew's wedding.

C H A P. VIII.

Shews the fertile invention of a man of gallantry.

ONE morning, soon after the excursion mention'd in the preceding chapter, Mrs. Goodall being engaged in settling accompts with her house-keeper, and Sir Harry, as Miss Wellers thought, employed with Dr. Wright in the library, that young lady retired to an arbour in the grove, taking a volume of Mr. Pope's works in her hand.

She had read some time, and was so intent upon the book, that she never perceived the approach of Sir Harry, who striking out of another walk, was at her elbow before she was aware of it. He accosted her with, 'Madam, you have chose a very agreeable retirement; if it is not impertinent, may I know what author is so happy as to engage your attention?'

She

She, rising from her seat, and delivering the book into his hand, said, 'You will in this, Sir, find my present entertainment.' Then offering to move up the walk, he begg'd her to return to her seat; and complimenting her on the judicious choice she had made in the subject of her amusement, desired she would favour him with her opinion of a poem in that volume: 'It is here,' continued he, turning over the leaves, 'the letter of Eloisa to Abelard: I have perus'd it a thousand times; but if you will give me leave, I will read it to you, as there are some passages of which I should be glad to have your sentiments.'

'Indeed, Sir Harry,' reply'd Miss Wellers, 'you must excuse me: I am by no means qualified to criticise on such a poet.'

'I will admit of no such excuse,' answered the baronet, 'you are, I'm sure, qualified to comment on the sentiments of one of your own sex.'

Upon

Upon which he began to read that epistle. When he came to these lines,

‘ Not Cæsar’s empress ! would I deign to
‘ prove,
‘ Make me but mistress to the man I
‘ love.’

‘ Good G—d !’ exclaimed the baronet,
‘ what a happy man must he be, that was
‘ capable of raising so exalted a passion
‘ in the breast of such a woman ! What is
‘ your opinion of those lines ?’ continued
he, taking her by the hand, and looking
full in her face.

She remained silent, withdrawing her
hand. He insisted on her reply ;

‘ Why, Sir Harry, said she, blushing,
‘ if you must know my real thoughts,
‘ they appear to me to be the sentiments
‘ of a person inspired with a violent un-
‘ governable passion, but surely not of a
‘ commendable one.’

‘ I always thought you a little prude,’
return’d the baronet.

‘ Nay,’ answered Miss Wellers, ‘ I don’t
‘ think I am at all more prudish in this
‘ respect, than Mrs. Goodall : I desire, Sir
‘ Harry, you would ask her opinion on this
‘ subject, and I dare say it will agree with
‘ mine.’

‘ I believe it may,’ reply’d Sir Harry,
‘ but though I pay great deference to her
‘ judgment, I can by no means allow it
‘ to be infallible, supposing it unbiaffed,
‘ which is hardly to be supposed at her
‘ time of life. The opinions of persons
‘ usually gather strength by an encrease
‘ of years. And age and obstinacy are gener-
‘ ally inseparable ; therefore I cannot acqui-
‘ esce in your appeal to so incompetent a
‘ judge of the cause. Tho’ I dare believe, at
‘ your age, her sentiments would have
‘ agreed with mine.’

‘ Then, Sir Harry,’ return’d the young
lady, ‘ they must be the same now, if
‘ your

‘ your assertion be true, *that age adds strength to an opinion.*’

The baronet perceiving he had made an egregious slip, answered with hesitation, ‘ Madam, a—when,—when I—a—mention’d the word *opinion*, I meant to use that of *prejudice*.

‘ Take which word you please, Sir Harry,’ reply’d his fair opponent, ‘ they will equally serve to prove that if Mrs. Goodall was once of your *opinion* in this matter, or *prejudiced*, if you please, in favour of such sentiments, she must retain the same, according to your own assertion. And therefore the only way to end the argument, is to ask her to which side she inclines : and I am determined to ask her.’

In speaking these words, she arose : ‘ Come, Sir Harry,’ continued Miss Wellers, ‘ do you chuse to walk in ? I fancy Mrs. Goodall is by this time disengaged.’

‘ As you please, madam,’ answered the baronet, ‘ you may command my atten-

‘dânce to the world’s end;’ then kissing the book with an air of gallantry, he delivered it to her, with a most obsequious bow.

Some unexpected company dining at Mrs. Goodall’s that day, prevented Miss Wellers from putting the question she intended to that lady.

No sooner were the visitors gone, than Sir Harry, apprehensive the young lady would do as she had proposed, resolved to be beforehand with her: Addressing himself therefore to his aunt, ‘As I was sauntering in the grove this morning,’ said he, ‘I found Miss Wellers there, perusing the works of our English Horace. Curiosity prompted me to enquire which of that elegant poet’s compositions she most approved: finding in the volume she had fix’d on, his version of Eloisa’s epistle, I pitch’d upon that, in order to draw from her, her sentiments of some tender expressions of the fair recluse: from these, I started an argument, on purpose to try
the

‘ the strength of my fair antagonist. You
 ‘ would have smiled to see how the bait
 ‘ took, and with what earnestness she car-
 ‘ ried on the contest. Finding I would not
 ‘ yield, she proposed an appeal to you,
 ‘ with a warmth that diverted me much,
 ‘ as it was an assurance that my raillery
 ‘ was taken for earnest. Confess the truth,
 ‘ Miss Wellers, did not you think whilst,
 ‘ I was endeavouring to get the better of
 ‘ you in the argument, (merely to give
 ‘ you an opportunity of exerting your
 ‘ good sense in confuting me) that I was
 ‘ really desirous you should approve the
 ‘ sentiments of Eloisa?’

‘ Certainly, Sir, I did :’ (reply’d the young
 lady) ‘ neither was the supposition unpar-
 ‘ rantable, as Mrs. Goodall will acknow-
 ‘ ledge, when she hears the case fairly
 ‘ stated.’

Upon which she related the whole con-
 versation, omitting only that circumstance
 concerning the connection between age and
 obstinacy.

‘ And now madam,’ continued she,
‘ which side will you take?’

‘ Yours, to be sure,’ answer’d Mrs.
Goodall.

‘ I told you so, Sir Harry,’ said Miss
Wellers.

‘ And did not I agree with you in that,
‘ madam?’ reply’d the baronet. ‘ You may
‘ remember, I said my aunt would be of
‘ your opinion;’ but, added he laughing,
‘ I must own myself vanquish’d at last, not
‘ only by your arguments, but by my own
‘ artifice, which I employ’d with no other
‘ view, but to try the force of those wea-
‘ pons I imagined you would have recourse
‘ to; and to the superior power of which
‘ I submit.’

‘ I am very glad, Sir Harry,’ answer’d his
aunt, ‘ that you acknowledge yourself foil-
‘ ed at so dangerous a weapon as dissimu-
‘ lation. I would caution you to lay it
‘ aside,

‘ aside, lest it should one time or other
 ‘ recoil, and wound you in the tenderest
 ‘ point, your honour.’

‘ Thank you, madam, for your advice,’
 return’d Sir Harry; ‘ but methinks we are
 ‘ growing graver than the subject will ad-
 ‘ mit of. Suppose we take a walk to the
 ‘ Parsonage, and see what’s going forward
 ‘ there.’

This proposition of the baronet’s pro-
 ceeded rather from a desire of diverting
 his aunt’s thoughts from the subject they
 were lately upon, than from any inclina-
 tion he had to visit the Doctor, whose un-
 derstanding, though he could not help ad-
 miring, he dreaded; and fear’d he should
 penetrate into the design he had form’d
 on the young lady. He had the like ap-
 prehensions of his aunt. For which rea-
 son, when Miss Wellers quitted the room,
 to fetch her hat and shade, he vented a
 deep sigh.

‘ From whence proceeds that sigh, Sir Harry?’ said Mrs. Goodall.

‘ From the heart, madam, I assure you,’ reply’d her nephew; ‘ ’tis in vain,’ continued he, ‘ to pretend to conceal from you the chagrin I feel, at receiving no intelligence from France. Ah, madam, were you sensible what anxious moments a lover passes, when separated, by a long sea, from the object of all his wishes, you would pity my present situation.’

‘ Indeed, Sir Harry,’ reply’d Mrs. Goodall, ‘ I have frequently remarked an absence in your behaviour, that led me to conjecture you had something of this nature on your mind. But may I not be favour’d with the name of the lady, whose charms have had such an influence upon you?’

‘ I would satisfy you in this point with extreme pleasure,’ answer’d the baronet, ‘ had not my fair conqueror laid an injunction

' junction of secrecy upon me. But thus
 ' far I may venture to tell you, she is a
 ' lady of English extraction, with whom
 ' I became acquainted during my residence
 ' at Paris; and as she has favour'd me
 ' with her correspondence since my return,
 ' I cannot guess the reason of her not re-
 ' plying to my last letters: however, if I
 ' have no news by the next mail, I shall
 ' dispatch Valiere for Dover immediately,
 ' and possibly shall go myself; for I can-
 ' not support this state of suspense.'

The return of Miss Wellers was a good
 pretence for Sir Harry to drop a conver-
 sation he would have found it difficult to
 have carried on. And he was heartily glad
 to be relieved, as he imagined he had said
 enough to convince his aunt of the engage-
 ment of his heart, and consequently to
 quell any suspicions that might arise in her
 mind of his intentions, in relation to her
 ward.

They proceeded to Dr. Wright's; but
 finding the family were not return'd from

a visit they that day made to Mr. Shooter, they return'd, and Sir Harry intreated his aunt to sit down to piquet with him, for the same reason that induced him to propose a walk.

From this time, Sir Harry took all opportunities, when alone with Miss Wellers, to profess himself her admirer; but in his tête à tête interviews with his aunt, pretended a perfect insensibility of that young lady's beauty and accomplishments, and continued to talk in rapture of the charms of his fair Parisian.

One day, being in company with Miss Wellers and Miss Burton, whilst the Doctor, Mrs. Wright, and Mrs. Goodall, were engaged in a discourse concerning a distressed family in the parish, and consulting what could be done to relieve them, Sir Harry proposed to the young ladies a walk in the grove, to which they assented: and the baronet turn'd the conversation on love and marriage; in which he artfully insinuated, that he despised all mercenary attach-

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attachments ; and took occasion to say, his fortune was sufficient to support him in affluence with any woman whose merit should attract his affections : and protested, if ever he changed his condition, love alone would be the motive.

These hints, added to his respectful treatment of Miss Wellers, and some observation on his glances, created a suspicion in Miss Burton, that Sir Harry was captivated by her fair friend ; from whom she did not conceal them : but next day, being alone with her, congratulated her on the conquest she had made.

Miss Wellers, at first, affected to take this as raillery, till the other assured her she was serious, and said, ‘ If Sir Harry Willmore has not directly declared himself your lover, I’m certain he has put a great constraint upon his inclinations ; for it is plain to me, by all his expressions and behaviour, that his heart is yours.’

‘ I neither believe, or desire it should,’ answered Miss Wellers, ‘ unless we were more upon an equality ; and as I am circumstanced, it would be very imprudent in me to entertain any such notion.’

‘ Why so ?’ reply’d her friend, ‘ his person, accomplishments and fortune, are conspicuous enough to attract the regard of any lady whose heart is disengaged ; and I cannot see any such disparity between you. The article of fortune excluded, where is it to be found ? And as Sir Harry has an ample estate, sufficient, as he observes, to live in splendour, without the addition of a wealthy match, I think there is great probability to believe it will be your own fault, if you are not one day lady Wilsmore.’

Miss Wellers allowed the baronet all the qualifications of a fine gentleman ; but said, she had no notion he had any designs of the nature she mentioned.

How-

However, when they parted, Miss Burton's discourse return'd to the mind of Miss Wellers; and as she was not endued with less penetration than her friend, she had for some time thought she had discovered by Sir Harry's extraordinary assiduity, that she was not indifferent to him; and resolv'd to remark more particularly, for the future, all his behaviour. She did so, and upon the strictest examination, found it corresponded with the exactest rules of honour and good-breeding.

You are not therefore to wonder, gentle reader, considering the universal generosity of his character, and the frequent opportunities he had of addressing her, in the most pathetic terms, if her young unexperienced heart should begin to regard him as a conquest worthy of it, and to incline to a favourable opinion of his pretensions. Yet though she perceived some small symptoms in her mind, of a reciprocal attachment, she took care to remove them, and was extremely cautious no word or action of hers, should betray any such.

Whilst

Whilst she was ruminating on the designs of the baronet, and fearing to give in too much to sentiments that favour'd him, he enter'd the room, and finding her alone, began to make an open profession of his passion; but in terms so modest and respectful, as gave her no room to suspect the sincerity and honour of them.

She made no other reply to these declarations, than by asking him if he had acquainted her guardian with his intentions?

To which he answer'd, he was obliged to conceal them from her at present, as there had been a match proposed to him which was not agreeable to his inclinations; and as his aunt approved it, she would in all likelihood object to any other; but he hoped to divert her thoughts from that, in a few months; and then he should, with pride and pleasure, inform her of the preference he gave to Miss Wellers.

My

‘ My aunt,’ continued he, ‘ is a very
 ‘ good woman, but as nothing human
 ‘ exists that is perfect, she has her foibles,
 ‘ and is not easily brought to give up any
 ‘ point that her mind is fix’d upon; and
 ‘ a direct opposition never fails to draw
 ‘ down her displeasure on the opposer.’

This excuse appeared to Miss Wellers plausible enough, who had observed a little tendency of that sort in her guardian, and frequently had heard her joke Sir Harry about his absent flame, and toast her health. She did not think it strange, that Mrs. Goodall should desire her nephew to make some considerable alliance; and perhaps thought herself not a little honoured in the preference he gave to her. However that be, she gave Sir Harry no sort of encouragement by her answers; in which she told him it was not proper for her to engage in discourses of this nature with him, at least till he had brought Mrs. Goodall to approve of such. And therefore begg’d he
 would

would no more mention the affair to her, till he was certain she might attend to it, without displeasing her best friend.

C H A P. IX.

Musick brought from America to regale the hearer, as well as the reader.

THE time was now arriv'd, that Mrs. Goodall and her ward were to set out for Sir Harry Wilsmore's seat. He attended them in the coach. Stopping to dine at an inn in Stamford, their ears were agreeably saluted with the melodious notes of a Virginia nightingale; with which Mrs. Goodall was so charm'd, that she sent for the hostess, and in very civil terms demanded of her, if she was willing to dispose of that pretty bird?

The landlady, with many low curtseys, answered, ' I am very much obliged to your ladyship's goodness, for taking notice of my little favourite, which, as your ladyship is pleased to observe, is a fine bird,

' bird, and if I could part with it, it should
 ' be very much at your ladyship's service.
 ' But I hope your ladyship will not take
 ' it amiss, that I cannot dispose of the
 ' little creature ; because I must tell your
 ' ladyship I set a great value upon it, as
 ' it was sent me by a friend that I expect
 ' to see er'e long, a poor lady ! that was
 ' driven out of England by misfortunes.
 ' Indeed if I was certain I should never see
 ' her again, your ladyship should be
 ' very welcome to the bird ; but as she
 ' may come I know not how soon, if she
 ' should find I had parted with her pre-
 ' sent, she might think me ungrateful,
 ' and never do me a favour again as long
 ' as she lives.'

' I would, by no means,' reply'd Mrs.
 Goodall, ' desire to deprive you of a token
 ' of friendship, especially as it comes from
 ' a person in misfortunes ; which circum-
 ' stance alone, must engage a more parti-
 ' cular regard to any proof of affection,
 ' tho' it be ever so trivial.'

' Ay,

‘ Ay, your ladyship’s goodness is much
‘ in the right; Mrs. Brown has met with
‘ great crosses, and so has her husband.’

‘ In trade, I suppose,’ said Mrs. Goodall,
‘ by their settling in Virginia.’

‘ Why,’ answered the hostess, ‘ your
‘ ladyship must understand, if Mr. Brown
‘ had not married a squire’s daughter, he
‘ might have been able to have maintained
‘ himself very well by a place he had.
‘ Indeed his wife was as well brought up
‘ as any lady in the land; but her father
‘ was a sad man, and brought a bad wo-
‘ man into his house under her very nose;
‘ so, poor gentlewoman! to be rid of such
‘ company, she married Mr. Brown. His
‘ circumstances was not extraordinary, as
‘ your ladyship may imagine, when I tell
‘ you he had only a place of thirty pounds
‘ a year, under a merchant. But as his
‘ wife’s father gave them a few hundreds,
‘ they thought themselves very happy.
‘ Las a day! they never considered the
‘ charge

LUCY WELLERS. 211

• charge of house-keeping, and a young
 • family coming on. Mr. Brown sent
 • the money he had by his wife for a ven-
 • ture, as they call it; and so, I suppose, it
 • went to the bottom of the sea, for the
 • ship was lost. His wife lying in soon
 • after, and the child being a sickly puny
 • thing, he sent to me, to get a cheap
 • place in the country for her and the child
 • to come to for air. But I should tell
 • your ladyship first, that I was once house-
 • keeper to Mr. Brown's uncle, who was
 • a covetous old batchelor, that brought
 • him up, and told every body that Mr.
 • Brown should be his heir. So he put
 • him to no business, but kept him at home
 • to wait on him and keep his accounts,
 • which saved him the expence of a stew-
 • ard. But by that time Master Billy was
 • two and twenty, the old fool married
 • one of his maids, who to be sure was
 • no better than she should be: and she
 • persuaded him to turn his nephew out of
 • doors. Mr. Brown was so beloved in
 • the neighbourhood, that he was wel-
 • come

‘ come to every body’s family, and some
‘ of his friends recommended him to a
‘ Virginia merchant, who took him for
‘ his clerk. This merchant had an estate
‘ in Devonshire, and he sent Mr. Brown
‘ to look after his affairs there; and here
‘ he happened to come acquainted with
‘ Miss Molly Wellers, a squire’s daughter
‘ that lived in the neighbourhood.’—

At the mention of this name, the ladies looked upon each other with some tokens of amazement; and though they had both been not a little tired of the conversation of the prating landlady, yet now their curiosity led them to wish for a continuance of it.

She proceeded: ‘ Miss Wellers fell in
‘ love with him, and they married. But
‘ the squire would never set eyes on her
‘ after, though he gave her a little mat-
‘ ter, which was lost, as I told your la-
‘ dyship. Well! I stirred about, and got
‘ a place for Mrs. Brown and her little
‘ one to board at, within a mile of this
‘ town.

‘ town. And she lived there a matter of
 ‘ fourteen months. And I used frequent-
 ‘ ly to go to see her. And as it lay in my
 ‘ way to have now and then a tit-bit, I
 ‘ often sent her a piece of venison, or such
 ‘ a thing, that she could not so well come
 ‘ at. Which she took so kindly, that she
 ‘ has sent me many handsome presents
 ‘ since she has had it in her power.’

‘ Then, I hope,’ said Mrs. Goodall, ‘ she
 ‘ has met with a change in her circum-
 ‘ stances?’

‘ Your ladyship shall hear,’ answer’d the
 hostess: ‘ Having staid in those parts
 ‘ about fourteen months, as I said, the
 ‘ merchant that her husband serv’d, find-
 ‘ ing him to be a very sensible industrious
 ‘ honest man, and one that understood his
 ‘ business, took compassion on his circum-
 ‘ stances, and recommended him to a place
 ‘ of some profit in Virginia, where he
 ‘ went about ten years ago, and is now be-
 ‘ come a wealthy planter.’

The ladies had no inclination to interrupt this recital ; but finding it concluded, Miss Wellers put several questions to the landlady concerning Mrs. Brown, informing her that she was her sister, and desired she would give her immediate notice of Mrs. Brown's arrival in England. She then called for paper, and gave her a direction to her at Mrs. Goodall's.

The hostess, highly delighted with the appearance of Mrs. Brown's sister, promised to be punctual in the performance of her commands. Mrs. Goodall and Sir Harry congratulated Miss Wellers on the prospect of seeing so near and dear a relation ; and having taken a civil farewell of their talkative landlady, they proceeded on their journey.

What they had heard at the inn, furnished them with a new topic of conversation, which engaged them till they were met by Miss Willmore, from whom they found a very genteel reception, and who, in a few days

days after, had a legal right to assume the title of lady Dumiel.

Sir Harry had taken care, that their nuptials should be celebrated with great splendour; and gave a grand ball at his own seat, to which all the neighbourhood was invited, except the family of Mr. Searls, who had a country habitation within a few miles of the baronet's. Such an exclusion was matter of great vexation to the banker's wife and daughters. But Sir Harry, having been informed of their insolent behaviour to Miss Wellers, thought proper to shew his contempt of them by this slight. To add to their mortification, the baronet carried his guests, with the bride, to an assembly that was held in a country-town hard by; where the great Mrs. Searls and her daughters had the mortification to see the little despised Lucy handed into the ball-room by the finest gentleman in the country, and open the ball with the bridegroom.

The place soon resounded with the praises which her beauty and gentility drew

drew from the company. A sound so grating to the ears of Mrs. Searls, that she went up to her daughter Patty, who was dancing with her admirer Mr. Fitz-Harris, and begg'd she would retire with her into the card-room. The eclat following her there, she could not endure it, but order'd her coach, and drove home, taking her daughters and Mr. Fitz-Harris with her; to the great satisfaction of her country neighbours, who had long wished for an occasion of mortifying that insolence which had render'd their company insupportable.

Sir Andrew and his lady made a brilliant appearance; and Sir Harry, to do honour to his sister, came not short of them in this particular. And here I am sorry I cannot oblige the young ladies my readers, with a circumstantial description of their dress. But as I have not the honour of any acquaintance with either their milliner or mantua-maker, &c. and hold no correspondence with Mrs. Goodall, I dare not trust to my memory in so important

an affair; and therefore must beg they would supply that deficiency for me, and let each of my fair perusers dress them according to her own fancy, in whatever they would themselves chuse to appear in, on such an occasion.

CHAP. X.

Contains matrimonial proposals from a man of fashion.

WHEN Mrs. Searls arrived at home, after leaving the assembly, she began to take her youngest daughter to task. 'I am astonish'd! Miss Patty,' said she, 'you could so far forget yourself, to be guilty of such a meanness, as to stand up to dance, when Lucy Weller took place of you. Though Sir Andrew Dumiell, being a stranger, knew no better, and Sir Harry Wilshire chose to affront us, I wonder child! you did not know your proper place; or that Mr. Fitz-Harris should not.'

‘ Upon my *sowle*,’ answered her partner,
‘ I made no mistake, for I *took* place of
‘ the gentleman two couple below his left
‘ hand.’

‘ I have often thought Miss Patty too
‘ forward,’ said the eldest daughter, ‘ and
‘ I doubt she rather chose to shew people
‘ she had an admirer, than consider’d
‘ how it was proper for the daughter of
‘ such a gentleman as Mr. Searls to be-
‘ have.’

Patty, somewhat piqued at this, an-
swer’d, ‘ Some people are very prudent,
‘ when they have no opportunity to be
‘ otherwise ; but I know some folks
‘ would have given their ears to have danc-
‘ ed, if any body had asked her.

‘ Well, child !’ return’d her sister, ‘ please
‘ yourself with that ridiculous notion ; I
‘ don’t think it worth my while to contradict
‘ you. But I would not have you give
‘ yourself such violent airs, as if no body
‘ had

‘ had a lover but you ! D’ye think, if I had
 ‘ listen’d to the nonsense of every one that
 ‘ made his addresses to me, I might not
 ‘ have had fellows dancing after me?’

Mr. Fitz-Harris, a little disturbed at this speech, which he imagined was no less a reflection on him than his mistress, determined to be even with Miss Searls; to which purpose, he said, ‘ As I was going
 ‘ into the card-room, I *overtook* Sir Harry
 ‘ Wilsmore, coming out, and thought he
 ‘ was making up to you, in order to en-
 ‘ gage you to dance with him. But when
 ‘ I came into the room again, I *heard* him
 ‘ look at a gentleman, to whom he said in
 ‘ a whisper, which I *saw* plain enough,
 ‘ Will no man take pity upon Searls’s eldest
 ‘ daughter?’

‘ Good lack !’ answered Miss Searls,
 ‘ a mighty pretty speech, truly ! But Sir
 ‘ Harry Wilsmore may know I despise him,
 ‘ almost as much as I do a coxcomical
 ‘ Irish-man.’

In ending these words she flew out of the room after her mamma, who retired to undress; and to whom she vented some of the spleen Mr. Fitz-Harris's speech had occasion'd. But Mrs. Searls had such a notion of his being a person of condition, by his intimacy with lady Ramble, that all the spite of her eldest daughter could not remove the prejudice she had in his favour.

Miss Searls, finding her mother would not give ear to any insinuations against that *fine gentleman*, as she called him, was resolved to interrupt the lovers, whom she said, it was not decent to leave so long alone, and flew into the parlour with as much precipitancy as she had left it.

On her entrance, 'I wonder, Miss Patty!' said she, 'you can be so indiscreet, to sit here with Mr. Fitz-Harris; 'tis enough to make the servants talk.'

The beau, observing his mistress a little disconcerted at this speech, reply'd, 'Indeed,

‘ deed, madam, your charming sister does
 ‘ not deserve these reproaches, for con-
 ‘ descending to permit me to entertain her
 ‘ with the breathings of my passion. The
 ‘ flames which her resplendent face, en-
 ‘ chanting shape, and sprightly wit,
 ‘ have kindled in my breast, must have
 ‘ a vent, or they will consume my vital
 ‘ heat.’

Then turning to Miss Patty, ‘ Speak, my
 ‘ adorable angel!’ continued he, ‘ and give
 ‘ me the ravishing assurance, that you ap-
 ‘ prove my vows, or before your sister,
 ‘ my sword (which is all the fire arms I
 ‘ have about me) shall tranfix that faith-
 ‘ ful heart, which has flown for refuge to
 ‘ your lovely breast.’

Miss Searls, out of all patience at this
 rhapsody, called out, ‘ For heaven’s sake
 ‘ don’t din my ears with such stuff. Why
 ‘ the girl must be quite a *nidget*, to bear
 ‘ such fulsome nonsense.’

Then taking Miss Patty by the hand,
 she insisted on her retiring with her to her

mamma; and she was obliged to obey the summons, and to leave her languishing lover, to contemplate alone on the beauties of his mistress.

Next day, the banker arrived from town somewhat unexpectedly, as he seldom came into the country when his wife was there; but there being some business to be transacted concerning parish affairs, he thought his presence absolutely necessary: Though 'tis probable it was as little desired by his neighbours as by his own family. He was surprised to find Fitz Harris there, and plainly told his wife, he did not approve of that gentleman's visits to Miss Patty.

She answered, she thought it sufficient that she did, who must be a better judge of fine gentlemen than he, as she had such opportunities from her acquaintance with lady Ramble, to be introduced to *great* company.

'And really, Mr. Searls!' continued she, 'tis amazing that you should pretend

' tend to trouble your head in affairs that
 ' don't concern you. You never was at
 ' any pains, or expence, in the education
 ' of my daughters : and I think as I have
 ' had all the trouble of breeding them, 'tis
 ' very fit I should dispose of them as I
 ' think proper. Mr. Fitz-Harris is a
 ' fine gentleman, and a man of fashion, and
 ' has a very handsome estate in the bishop-
 ' ric of *Clanfart*, as he has assured me ;
 ' and is, besides, cousin german *three*
 ' *times remov'd from a peer*. So, you see
 ' here's quality as well as fortune ; and
 ' 'tis not impossible, if Miss Patty should
 ' accept his offer, but she may be a
 ' countess ; and quality will suit her of
 ' all things in life ! she is formed for a
 ' lady.'

Fitz-Harris, chancing to pass the room,
 Mrs. Searls desired him to walk in.
 ' Young gentleman,' said she, ' you must
 ' speak for yourself ; I have just made
 ' Mr. Searls acquainted with your preten-
 ' sions to Miss Patty.'

Fitz-Harris looked somewhat disconcerted at first, but resuming the natural product of his climate, an assurance, 'Madam,' answer'd he, 'I hope this worthy gentleman will not oppose my happiness with the divine object of the most consummate passion that ever fired a youthful heart. Oh! think, Sir, of your own sufferings, when soliciting the fair hand of this beautiful lady;' bowing to Mrs. Searls, 'then judge, Sir, of the torture which must inevitably rend my *obdurate* breast, if you cruelly deny me the favour of confessing to Miss Patty, the power her charms have gained over a heart as free from guile as your own.'

Here making a low bow, he waited the effect this fine harangue would have on the father of his mistress.

The banker, having return'd his obsequious bow, reply'd, 'Mr. Fitz-Harris, Sir, my wife, as she has inform'd you, had began to mention your pretensions to
' my

‘ my daughter Miss Patty ; and in refer-
 ‘ ence to my daughter’s marriage, I must
 ‘ tell you, the case is, that I have no de-
 ‘ sire to part with her at present, Sir ; but
 ‘ if you will please to inform me what
 ‘ settlement you propose to make on my
 ‘ daughter, I will consider of your offer,
 ‘ Sir, and give you my answer in a month,
 ‘ Sir.’

‘ A month, Sir !’ reply’d the lover, ‘ I
 ‘ can’t *subsist* so long, without obtaining
 ‘ the desirable object of my wishes ! As
 ‘ to a settlement, Sir, you may depend
 ‘ upon it, all I have in the world I think
 ‘ it little enough to lay at the *canopy* of
 ‘ her fair feet ; though I will venture to
 ‘ affirm, there are at least five hundred
 ‘ gentlemen, my countrymen, now in town,
 ‘ whose fortunes all put together will not
 ‘ be found to exceed mine ; and had I a
 ‘ prospect of a diadem, as I have of a co-
 ‘ ronet, Miss Patty Searls might refuse it.’

‘ Really,’ said Mrs. Searls, ‘ I pity the
 ‘ poor gentleman ; and wish, Mr. Searls,

‘ you would consider he is a man of fashion, and never stood behind a counter.’

‘ No truly, madam, return’d Fitz-Harris, with an air of pride, ‘ I must own I never was worth *one*; my *revenue* arises from a different *establishment*; though I might dwell upon my estate, I would not tire you with a repetition of what I have before mention’d to you concerning the situation of it, and therefore must beg you would be pleased to lay it before this gentleman, whilst I take a turn in the garden.’ So saying, he quitted the room with a low bow.

The moment he was gone, Mrs. Searls launched out in praises on his great merit and expectations; and said, he had assured her that his estate in Ireland was fifteen hundred a year, which had only a mortgage of six thousand pounds upon it, left by his father; that he desired no more of Mr. Searls at present, in order to clear it; and as soon as this estate was disencumber’d, he would settle the whole of it upon Miss Patty.

The

The banker owned he did not approve of him for a son-in law, notwithstanding all his wife could allege in his favour.

Finding him so obstinate, she had recourse to an expedient, which she thought would not fail to make him acquiesce in her opinion. Accordingly, she gave him some broad hints, which let him to understand his amours were no secret to her. She began to put herself in a passion, and threatening to expose him, he had no other method to allay the one, and evade the other, than by telling her he would refer the case to her superior judgment, and consent to whatever she thought proper.

C H A P. XI.

Contains dialogues equally polite and edifying.

MISS Wellers had been in Sir Harry Wilsmore's house near a fortnight ; the chief of which time had been spent in festivity, and receiving visits : so that the baronet had no opportunity of prosecuting the cause in which his heart was engaged. But it happen'd, one day, Mrs. Goodall was obliged to attend Sir Andrew, and lady Dumiel, in a visit to an old maiden cousin, who lived a very retired life, and saw no company but her relations ; and therefore, it was not thought proper to carry Miss Wellers. And Sir Harry, excused himself from going, having, he said, appointed his attorney to come to him that day, upon business.

As soon as Sir Andrew, and the ladies, were gone, Miss Wellers retired to her dressing-room ; where she was earnestly employ'd

employ'd on a piece of needle-work, when Sir Harry enter'd, without any apology for his intrusion : and seating himself by her, began to talk on the subject of his passion for her ; which, he said, was grown to that height, he could no longer keep it within the bounds he had hitherto done, and intreated her to compassionate his sufferings, in a stile truly romantic.

She appear'd under a great deal of confusion at this discourse ; to which she made no reply.

Sir Harry, regarding her silence as a favourable omen, began to take some liberties which surpris'd her, and which, she told him, were very inconsistent with the respect he had professed for her, and even with common good manners.

He imputed the fault to excess of passion ; pleaded his merit, in having stifled it so long ; and said all that an artful designing heart, inspired by such a one, could dictate : pressing her to indulge his desires, in a manner that alarm'd her innocence.

She

She burst into tears, complain'd of the affront in the bitterest terms ; and when she found this did not avail to check his temerity, she proceeded to threats, protesting she would make Mrs. Goodall acquainted with his proceedings.

He affected to turn all she said on that head into ridicule, and laughing, answer'd,
‘ What power do you imagine, my dear
‘ girl, my aunt has to controul my
‘ actions ? and though I must confess, I
‘ have made a private resolution against
‘ entering into the marriage state, my aunt
‘ knows too much of the world, to expect
‘ I should lead a life of celibacy ; nor can
‘ she be at all surpris'd I should pursue the
‘ methods I take, to procure myself the
‘ pleasure of such an agreeable companion
‘ as you, my dear. I love you to distraction,
‘ and would do all in my power to
‘ make life agreeable to you. I propose,
‘ you should have the same command in
‘ my house, and over my servants, and be
‘ treated in every respect as my wife. Indeed,

‘ deed, my dear girl, I would desire you
 ‘ to partake of every enjoyment that title
 ‘ might claim, exclusive of the name.
 ‘ But for many reasons, it is utterly in-
 ‘ convenient for me to enter into bonds
 ‘ at present. I will present you with a
 ‘ *carte blanche*; write your own terms,
 ‘ and be they what they will, I will with
 ‘ infinite pleasure, subscribe to them.’

This explicit declaration of the baronet’s dishonourable intentions, threw Miss Wellers into a violent passion of tears; from which, however, she recover’d in a few moments, and with a dignity, the inseparable companion of virtuous innocence, reply’d :

‘ Your former behaviour, Sir Harry,
 ‘ gave me no room to suspect that so base
 ‘ a design lurk’d under it; on the contrary
 ‘ it had prejudiced me in your favour, and
 ‘ rais’d sentiments in my mind, which
 ‘ time, and a perseverance in, might pro-
 ‘ bably have improved into what you then
 ‘ seem’d to desire. But the declaration you
 ‘ now

‘ now have thought proper to make, has
‘ totally eradicated every favourable senti-
‘ ment of you; and I know not, whether
‘ my disdain of such ungenerous propo-
‘ sals, or of the person that has made
‘ them, is greatest. But be assur’d, Sir
‘ Harry, I condemn them both sincerely;
‘ and the only reparation I desire for the
‘ injurious treatment I have receiv’d, is
‘ that you will quit this room, and leave
‘ me to the just grief which your unge-
‘ nerous proceeding has occasion’d.’

‘ I shall obey you, madam,’ answer’d
the baronet, ‘ though with the utmost
‘ concern, that I have by the violence of
‘ passion incurr’d your displeasure. But
‘ before you mention this conversation to
‘ Mrs. Goodall, I advise you to reflect,
‘ whether she will deem it a suitable re-
‘ turn to the favours you have indeed just-
‘ ly merited from her, to endeavour to
‘ make a breach between her, and so near
‘ a relation; for I solemnly protest, if my
‘ aunt should pretend to interfere in any
‘ point relating to my conduct, I will ne-
‘ ver

' ver converse with her more. As to the
' resolution I made against marriage, it
' was but temporary; and I am not cer-
' tain that I shall so strictly adhere to it
' as I intimated.'

The coach at that instant driving up to the gate, Sir Harry quitted the young lady abruptly, without waiting for her reply.

The moment he was gone, she fasten'd the door; and began to reflect on what had passed. The cruel disappointment she had met with, joined to the disgraceful proposals Sir Harry had made, threw her into agitations much like those she had experienced in the closet at Chelsea. Her greatest perplexity, was how she should conduct herself, without giving offence to the family, or the master of it the least notion that she had not the utmost detestation of such an offensive behaviour.

At first, she thought of sending down for Mrs. Goodall, and revealing the whole affair to her; but, as she knew the ex-
treme

treme affection that lady had for her nephew, she dreaded to give her so much pain; and the intimation he gave her, made her fear by that means she should cause an irreparable breach, and occasion a disturbance in a family, where she was entertained with great civility.

She, therefore, drop'd that thought. And having fervently petition'd the protection of that power that was abundantly able to defend her against the machinations of the subtlest enemy, she composed herself, and went down stairs.

Lady Dumiel, as soon she saw her, call'd out, ' Dear Miss Wellers, I'm sorry ' we could not have the pleasure of your ' company in the visit we have been making; for, sure, such a figure as my ' cousin Allgrave, must have diverted you.

' Really,' added Sir Andrew, ' she ' look'd as if she came out of Noah's ark.' ' Her dress, and whole appearance, had ' indeed something so antedeluvian in it,'
conti-

(continued his lady) ‘ that it was with
 ‘ great difficulty I could compose my
 ‘ countenance at her approach. She very
 ‘ ceremoniously saluted and congratulated
 ‘ me : then, out of her abundant gene-
 ‘ rosity, presented me with an old caudle
 ‘ cup, to grace my side-board, as she
 ‘ said. I was obliged to accept it, for
 ‘ fear of affronting her. It will serve
 ‘ the house-keeper for a sugar dish.’ Upon
 which she showed it to Miss Wellers.

Sir Andrew, taking hold of it with his
 finger and thumb, as cautiously as it had
 been full of scalding lead, called out,
 ‘ Oh hideous ! was ever such a thing seen ?
 ‘ Pray, what are these figures that are en-
 ‘ graved ? the Roman *Fathers*, or the
 ‘ Græcian *Cæsars* ?’

His lady reply’d, ‘ Fie, Sir Andrew,
 ‘ they are the four evangelists.’

‘ Very queer, old fashion’d gentlemen,
 ‘ upon my virtue !’ answer’d he, ‘ how-
 ‘ ever, I am glad the old lady inform’d us
 ‘ of

‘ of the use of this thing; otherwise I
‘ should have conceiv’d from the make,
‘ it had been a utensil of another nature.
‘ But, ladies, I beg pardon.’

‘ Upon my word,’ said Mrs. Goodall,
‘ you are both very ungrateful. Mrs.
‘ Allgrave intended this present as a proof
‘ of her good will: besides, I must think,
‘ the very antiquity of it renders it accept-
‘ able; and as it is a piece of plate valued
‘ by your ancestors, you ought not to ridi-
‘ cule the old lady’s kindness.’

‘ Hang it!’ answer’d lady Dumiel, ‘ if
‘ she had a mind to oblige one, could not
‘ she have found something more agree-
‘ able? A piece of china, indeed, I should
‘ have valued, which is the only thing
‘ that is to be esteemed for its antiquity.’

‘ Your ladyship,’ reply’d Sir Andrew,
‘ has pitch’d upon the quite right thing.
‘ I own I have a passion for china, and
‘ think nothing that is old can be tolera-
‘ ble but that.’

‘ I observed a good deal,’ said his lady,
 ‘ that she seem’d not to know what to do
 ‘ with.’ Then turning to Mrs. Goodall,
 ‘ I beg, madam, you would not take any
 ‘ notice to her of our jokes ; for I am de-
 ‘ termined to visit her frequently, in order
 ‘ to admire her china. Then I propose
 ‘ making a point bed ; and ’tis very pro-
 ‘ bable, as her wardrobe has not been di-
 ‘ minish’d since the reign of queen Eli-
 ‘ zabeth, I may *compliment* her out of a
 ‘ piece or two.’

‘ If she parts with any,’ returned Mrs.
 Goodall, ‘ ’tis more than you deserve. But,
 ‘ though I don’t approve of your conver-
 ‘ sation upon this topic, I shall not repeat
 ‘ it, you may be certain.’

All this time, Sir Harry never made his
 appearance ; nor did he enter the room,
 till supper was served up, when he scarcely
 lifted his eyes from his plate ; and though
 he was a proficient in the art of dissimu-
 lation, he could not conceal his chagrin
 from

from the penetration of Mrs. Goodall; who began to rally him on the tardiness of the foreign mail.

He answer'd a little peevishly, that he neither expected or desired news from abroad. After this he made many efforts to conceal his uneasiness, and to appear gay and disengaged, as usual; but they were unavailing, and nothing could be more tasteless and insipid than his conversation the whole evening.

Nor is this change in a man of his reputed wit, to be wonder'd at at such a juncture, since conscious guilt has the property of causing such an effect wherever it touches.

The morning after, at breakfast, Wordsall came running into the room, ' Bless me, ladies! I have a surprising piece of *inelegance*, to acquaint you with.'

' What dost mean?' said her lady.

' Oh

‘ Oh, mem, would your la’ship think it?
 ‘ Miss Patty Searls is married this morn-
 ‘ ing, to the gentleman that danced with
 ‘ her at the last assembly.’

‘ Impossible!’ cry’d Mrs. Goodall. ‘ I
 ‘ don’t think Mr. Searls would consent.’

‘ Yes-indeed, mem! he did, for he was
 ‘ her godfather, and gave her away, as
 ‘ John says, who saw them come out of
 ‘ church. And the bridegroom, no doubt,
 ‘ is a man of *consequency*, for they say he is
 ‘ as fine as a prince! and they say there is
 ‘ to be a ball too!’

‘ Oh, no doubt of it!’ answer’d lady
 Dumiel.

This wedding furnish’d the ladies with
 conversation till the time of dressing.

About an hour before dinner, whilst
 Mrs. Goodall was engaged in some pri-
 vate discourse with lady Dumiel, Miss
 Wellers return’d to her dressing-room, and
 was

was ruminating on the disrespectful behaviour of Sir Harry, when she was disturbed by the sound of a man's voice in an adjoining chamber; and listening attentively, she overheard the following dialogue, between Valiere and Wordfall.

The first speech she heard distinctly, came from the valet, in these words. ‘ I
‘ would not vor the varle persuade you
‘ to tis ting, var I not vell assure of Sar
‘ Arry’s generosity. Oh! he be var no-
‘ ble! var generous! var he plaife, and
‘ he be so in love vor madame Veller, tat
‘ I do pity him, from my art! and he
‘ canno persuade the lady to regard his no-
‘ ble affection; vor vitch raison he make
‘ me one propose, to steal her from his
‘ tante; and all you fall do, is vor to re-
‘ ceive the lady and I, at your *pappa*
‘ house.’

Wordfall reply’d, ‘ Sir, I perfectly un-
‘ derstand you, and wou’d be ready to
‘ grant Sir Harry any favour; hut you
‘ know, Sir, reputation is a very intricate
‘ point;

' point; and as well as I approve Sir Harry,
 ' nay as well as I approve your gentility,
 ' I would not run myself into any *prelimi-*
 ' *naries*, that may call my reputation in
 ' question, which I have always *observed*
 ' with extreme caution. Now, if I should
 ' desire my papa to harbour a kept mis-
 ' tress, it may cast an *odegem* on my whole
 ' family; then, as it will happen on a Sa-
 ' turday night, I don't think you can be
 ' so *privacy* as you would chuse, for my
 ' papa has always a vast *recourse* of gen-
 ' tlemen who come to be shaved against
 ' Sunday; and then there is a great *probity*
 ' he will not agree to it.'—'Oh madam! I
 ' have no fear but monsieur your *pappa*
 ' will see the honour Sar Arry make
 ' him, and as to your repute I will
 ' proclaim it before de varle and de dia-
 ' ble; if you be cruel to deny me tis
 ' leetle trifle I shall think you are resolve to
 ' kill your slave. Sar Arry present a you
 ' with tis purse and tirty guinea, his de-
 ' sire only tat you will write one leetle bil-
 ' lit à monsieur your *pappa*, only tat he be
 ' prepare to receive me and de lady vor
 ' one night, vor I shall set out vor Lon-

' dre next day, and from Londre à Dover,
 ' vere Sar Arry vill meet me; allons, mon
 ' bel ange! blefs me vith your reply.'—
 ' Oh Sir!' answer'd Wordsfall, ' your maf-
 ' ter's honour and you, have both fuch
 ' *infimulating* tongues, that there is no re-
 ' fifting your *elegance*! tell Sir Harry, I
 ' accept his genteel present, and will write
 ' to my papa directly. But you never
 ' told me how you propos'd to fteal the
 ' lady.—Oh madame! I fall ave one
 ' mafque, and Monsieur Damelick vil ave
 ' one auffi, and as ve be vell arm, ve vill
 ' rob de coach, ven Madame Goodall fet
 ' out, and fo take de lady and carry her
 ' to your *pappa* houle.'

Miss Wellers was in too great a con-
 fternation at this difcovery, to attend
 to their converfation any longer, had
 it continued; but Wordsfall hearing the
 found of her lady's bell, was obliged to
 drop it, leaving Miss Wellers under the
 moft terrifying apprehenfions. She feared
 if ſhe revealed what ſhe heard to her guar-
 dian, theſe mercenary wretches would deny
 all they had ſaid, and as ſhe had no wit-
 neſſes, ſhe imagined it would be better to
 conceal

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conceal it, till she got out of the house. Sir Harry took leave of the family, and expressed great concern, that he was prevented from attending the ladies part of their way home. ‘ A very unlucky affair !’ said he, ‘ obliges me to set out for Dover, to meet a friend who is going abroad, and has wrote to me in the most pressing terms, to come and take a last adieu of him there, as he may not be able to return for some years, if ever.’

This apology was accepted by Mrs. Goodall. Miss Wellers, with a trembling heart, saw him depart ; as she did not doubt but his journey was in pursuance of the frightful scheme which she had overheard. Whenever Mrs. Goodall mention’d setting out for home, she observed an alteration in the countenance of her young friend ; and at last, she asked her if any thing alarmed her ?

Upon which she wept, and said, ‘ I am really ashamed of confessing my weakness, but I have such a notion we shall be robbed on our return, that I cannot get it out of my head.’— ‘ Pooh !’ an-

swered Mrs. Goodall, 'How should such a fancy come into your head? for my part, I am under no apprehensions of that nature.'—Sir Andrew complaisantly offer'd any of his servants to attend them as a guard, if she thought Mrs. Goodall's were not sufficient.

Her guardian's ease upon this occasion, did not afford any to Miss Wellers, who, as they were to set out next day, passed the night in a very disagreeable situation.

CH A P. XII.

In which Sir Harry makes another visit to his aunt, upon an extraordinary occasion.

IN the morning, when the ladies were to depart, Sir Andrew insisted on their accepting a stout coachman, and one of his grooms, for a guard; which reinforcement gave Miss Wellers great joy, hoping these men, added to her guardian's retinue, would be able to defend her.

Thus prepared, they set forward, and meeting with no attack, when they got to Stamford, Mrs. Goodall discharg'd Sir Andrew's servants from attending her; for hav-
ing

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ing made a strict enquiry at the inn, she was told there had not been a robbery committed in those parts a great while, and at that season of the year no body imagined there was any probability of such a danger. However, as she found her ward's fears were not removed, she did not acquaint her with the return of Sir Andrew's servants. They proceeded on their journey without molestation, till they were within eight miles of their home, when the coachman was commanded to halt, by two men in vizard masks. They were presenting their pistols at the coach-door, just as three other persons rode up, who undauntedly joined Mrs. Goodall's servants. Upon this, the rogues clapp'd spurs, and made off full speed.

‘ Follow ’em, my boys !’ said one of the last comers to his comrades. ‘ Neck or nothing ;’ then turning to the ladies, he accosted them, with, ‘ I hope you an’t much frightened with those raggamuffins.’ They recovering a little, at the sound of the voice look’d up, and perceived they were indebted to honest Jack Shooter for so seasonable a deliverance. Mrs.

Goodall returned him a thousand thanks ; and Miss Wellers was pouring forth her acknowledgments, when he interrupted her, ‘ Nay, nay ! you need not make
‘ so many speeches, for I should have
‘ done what I did, for any body else.
‘ I was not quite certain whose coach
‘ it was ; but now I will guard you safe
‘ home. I have sent Tim Hazel and
‘ Nick Twigger after the rogues ; and
‘ I’ll warrant they will give a good ac-
‘ count of them : though I must needs
‘ say, they are plaguy well mounted ; and I
‘ should have liked to have had a nearer view
‘ of their beasts. I am sorry for the poor
‘ gentleman that lost ’em, for out of doubt
‘ they are stolen, and ’twou’d vex a man to
‘ the heart, to lose two such fine creatures.’
Then looking hard at Miss Wellers,
‘ Why, Miss,’ said the squire, ‘ don’t be
‘ so daunted ! have a good heart ! I’ll war-
‘ rant I’ll take care of you. But if you
‘ think I an’t man enough for you, I’ll
‘ call at the crown, and take two or three
‘ stout drovers with us.’ The ladies much
approved of this proposition.

When Jack arrived at the public house
he

he had mention'd, he desired them to taste honest Madewell's sherry, assuring them it was the best in twenty miles round; but begg'd they would not take his word for it. The ladies complied with his request, and having refresh'd themselves, the squire and the drovers conducted them safe to Mrs. Goodall's house, when Jack took leave of them without alighting, promising to bring them some account of the rogues in the morning.

As soon as he was gone, Miss Wellers burst into tears, and said, she knew but too well who they were. This declaration amazed her good guardian, who immediately called out, 'What do you mean, my dear?' Miss Wellers, then related the dialogue that passed between Valiere and Wordsfall.

Mrs. Goodall appear'd greatly agitated during the recital. And after a long pause, said, with some vehemence, 'No! it can never be; my nephew is not capable of contriving so base a scheme; you certainly misunderstood the false English of the one, and the nonsense of the other. I

‘hope, my dear, you do not from your heart imagine Sir Harry Wilsmore would perpetrate so villainous an action.’

‘I cannot truly judge,’ answer’d the young lady, ‘what Sir Harry is capable of doing; but I am certain, from his late behaviour, I have had no reason to think favourably of his actions.’

‘Well!’ said Mrs. Goodall, ‘this affair shall be enquired into; and if I find, he can make such talents as he is endow’d with, subservient to purposes so unbecoming a christian, or even a man of moral honesty, I shall despise his qualifications, and prefer those of the meanest peasants now toiling in the harvest-field. I will write to him to-morrow, and desire him either to acquit himself of this charge, or never more come under my roof.’ This conversation lasted till they went to rest.

Next day, early, Mrs. Goodall dispatched a messenger, with a letter to Sir Harry. And soon after, Jack Shooter came to enquire how the ladies were, after their fright.

He

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He said, he was very much vex'd, that his companions could not overtake the rogues ; but they had broken their horses wind in a fruitless pursuit. Adding, ' I would not grudge the primest gelding in my stable, to bring such rascals to law.' The ladies expressed suitable acknowledgments for his care, and he left them. Mrs. Goodall desired Miss Wellers would not communicate her suspicions of Sir Harry to Miss Burton, or any one : And that young lady, assured her she would not.

The messenger Mrs. Goodall had sent to Sir Harry, return'd the day after, with the baronet's compliments ; and he should do himself the honour of waiting on Mrs. Goodall, in a few days, when he hoped to give a satisfactory reply to the contents of her letter. Miss Wellers hearing this, begg'd her gaurdian would permit her to pass a few days with Miss Shooter, as she had been often invired there ; for she should not chuse to be at home when Sir Harry came. Mrs. Goodall consented, and the lady set forth. She was scarcely enter'd Topewell-Hall, before Sir Harry arrived at his aunt's,

After the first salutations were over, he enquired for Miss Wellers, and was inform'd she was gone out for some days. He expressed some concern at her absence, as he said he should have been glad to have cleared himself of the suspicion he found she entertained, so derogatory to his honour.—‘However,’ continued he, ‘since I have divined into the affair, I am less surpris’d at the lady’s apprehensions. For, madam, in the emotion your astonishing epistle occasion’d, I sent for my valet into my library, and locking the door, presented the point of my sword to his breast, and by threats, brought him to a confession of his villainous plot. I committed it to paper, and obliged him to sign it, after he had taken a solemn oath of the truth of every circumstance, which you, madam, may find in this,’ presenting a paper to his aunt. The purport of which was, an acknowledgment from Valiere, that he, in concert with Sir Andrew’s valet, had formed a design of robbing Mrs. Goodall on her return; but solemnly protested, Sir Harry Wilsmore was ignorant of his intentions. That he had long made Wordsall privy to all his trans-

actions,

actions, and was acquainting her with his scheme, when he heard Miss Wellers move in the dressing-room. And conjecturing she had overheard part of it, he then made use of his master's name, and framed the story exactly as Mrs. Goodall had wrote it to Sir Harry; in case, if he was detected, the lady should imagine he was executing his master's orders, and be willing to part with any thing rather than be carried away.

When Mrs. Goodall had read thus far, 'I am astonish'd,' said she, 'at the fellow's impudence and folly, in daring to make use of your name to colour his execrable intentions! He might imagine, if Miss Wellers did over-hear him, she would reveal the affair, and have you punish him according to the heinousness of the offence.'—'That was my very thought,' answer'd the baronet, 'and what I told the villain. His reply was, he did not think the lady would have the courage to mention it, whilst under the same roof with me; and when his attempt had succeeded, he did not care if it came out, for he propos'd making
' off

off with his booty for Bologne. My ordering the rascal to pack up some apparel for my journey that very morning, and my mentioning the summons I received from Dover, he owned, furnished him with this expedient. It was very impolitic in you, madam, to take any notice before Wordfall, of the money you were to receive at Mrs. Allgrave's; for I believe the report of that has occasion'd all this vexation, and caused my honour to be reflected on, in very ignominious terms. But if what I have produced, and what I have farther to alledge in my defence, does not clear me in the opinion of you and Miss Wellers, by all that's—
 Hold, Sir Harry! interrupted the lady, No oaths, I beseech you! Madam! your pardon; but I shall certainly stab the villain at my return, for I have him confined in my own house.

I beg, Sir Harry, reply'd his aunt, you would not be rash. Valiere is a villain, and I think you would do right to send him into his native country: not but he deserves punishment; yet I hope the poor wretch may live, and
 repent.

‘repent.’—‘I hope, then, madam, you are
 ‘satisfied of my innocence, as to this black
 ‘affair, and how cruelly I have been as-
 ‘persed; for I solemnly protest, if you are
 ‘not, the fellow’s life shall pay for the
 ‘injury my honour has sustained.’

Mrs. Goodall, fearing the consequence
 of his warmth, told him she acquitted
 him as to this plot. But said, ‘you have
 ‘certainly offended Miss Wellers, Sir
 ‘Harry, though I cannot pretend to say
 ‘by what means.’

‘I am sorry for that, madam,’ answer’d
 the baronet, ‘I never intentionally gave
 ‘her any offence. But I have remark’d
 ‘she is a lady of great form; and per-
 ‘haps, as I sometimes rattle, and don’t al-
 ‘ways think before I speak, she may have
 ‘mistaken my carelessness for rudeness:
 ‘or, may be, the indifference she may
 ‘imagine I have ever shewn to her person,
 ‘has a little piqued her. I believe you
 ‘will own, ’tis very common for a young
 ‘woman to entertain higher ideas of her
 ‘personal merit, than can be conceived by
 ‘an impartial observer: and though Miss
 ‘Wellers

Wellers has many accomplishments, I have perceived she is not quite exempt from this in-born weakness of her sex. Since I am not to have the pleasure of paying my devoirs to the lady, I beg, madam, you would do me the favour to shew her Valiere's confession. You may farther inform her of my intentions of sending that wretch out of the nation at my return, and that I shall insist on lady Dumiel's discharging her impertinent woman. And if I am so unfortunate as to have incurred her displeasure through inadvertency, I obsequiously demand her pardon, and beg it may be forgotten.'

Mrs. Goodall assured him, Miss Wellers should be made acquainted with all he had said.

'But, Sir Harry,' added the lady, 'you can never have been at Dover, sure, and return'd so soon. What prevented your journey?' 'Madam,' answered he, 'you know I'm very expeditious in all my undertakings of that nature; but I have not been at Dover. I set out, indeed with
that

‘ that intent, and arrived in town by
 ‘ twelve, the night I parted with you at
 ‘ my house ; and as the affair that occasi-
 ‘ oned my friend’s intention of travelling,
 ‘ was a duel, which he fear’d would be at-
 ‘ tended with fatal consequences, as he
 ‘ left his antagonist in a desperate condi-
 ‘ tion, the first thing I did when I got
 ‘ to town (late as it was) was to send for
 ‘ the surgeon that attended the wounded
 ‘ gentleman, in order to learn from him
 ‘ the condition he was in. He gave me
 ‘ the satisfaction to understand, the case
 ‘ was by no means dangerous ; and that
 ‘ his patient (who was indeed the aggress-
 ‘ for) finding himself so much better than
 ‘ he expected, had sent to enquire after
 ‘ my friend, to inform him that his wounds
 ‘ were not mortal, and to beg him not to
 ‘ leave England so abruptly. This intelli-
 ‘ gence excessively rejoiced me, and I dis-
 ‘ patched a messenger post to him at Dover,
 ‘ to give him this agreeable information,
 ‘ and to invite him to my house till the
 ‘ affair is a little blown over ; and I expect
 ‘ to find him there at my return.’

Mrs.

Mrs. Goodall having expressed her disapprobation of duelling, pretty much in Sir Richard Steele's terms, she turn'd the discourse on the new-married pair, who Sir Harry said, were soon to leave his house for Sir Andrew's seat, and when they were gone, he propos'd going to pass the remainder of the summer in Worcester-shire: and consequently he should have no opportunity of waiting on Mrs. Goodall any more till she came to town for the winter. He then bid his aunt adieu for that night.

The END of the FIRST VOLUME.